

# THE Hongkong Weekly Press

## AND China Overland Trade Report.

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### MARRIAGES.

On the 8th February, at the British Consulate, Yokohama, and afterwards at Christ Church by the Rev. E. Champneys Irwin, JAMES LESLIE ROBERTSON, of Kobe, to ELIZA TEMPLETON, eldest daughter of JAMES JOHNSTON, Yokohama.

At Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, on the 8th of February, 1899, HARRY FORRESTER, only son of the late Charles Gordon FORRESTER, of Stafford, to ARABELLA PEPPER, younger daughter of the late John PEPPER, of Bolton, Lancs.

### DEATHS

At 14, Mohawk Road, Shanghai, on the 8th February, 1899, SELBY LOVETT MARBY, aged 32 years.

At Shanghai, on the 8th February, 1899, DONALD CAMPBELL LANDELL, a native of Oban, Scotland, aged 35 years.

### ARRIVALS OF MAIIS.

The French mail of the 18th January arrived per M. M. steamer *Caledonien*, on the 14th February (32 days); the American mail of the 17th January arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Doric*, on the 16th February (30 days); and the English mail of the 20th January arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Parramatta*, on the 17th February (8 days).

### EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

A Reuter's telegram states that Mr. St. John Bridgeman has promised the issue of a voluminous Blue Book shortly on the China question.

Mr. Goschen, according to a Router's telegram, states that the question of the defence of Weihsienwei is far advanced and that proposals concerning it will be submitted to Parliament.

Mr. James Creelman, the well-known American war correspondent, who represented the *New York World* during the China-Japan war, was a passenger by the O. & O. steamer *Doric* en route to the Philippines.

According to Japanese papers the Tsungli Yamen announced on the 3rd February that the Chinese Government had decided to open Nanking, Kwangsi, to foreign trade, but the date of the opening was not yet decided.

The Japanese *Chargé d'Affaires* in Portugal has advised the Department of Foreign Affairs that the business of the Portuguese Vice-Consulate for Hiogo and Osaka, which has hitherto been entrusted to the French Consul, will hereafter be taken charge of by Commander Mores of the Portuguese Navy.

It would seem, says a home paper, that a change is coming over the previous opinion as to American locomotives in Japan. An order for twenty engines has just been placed with a British firm, the notification as to tenders stipulating that no American tenders would be considered. Though higher priced at first, the British locomotive is cheap in the long run by its lasting qualities.

A Router's telegram of the 8th February, states that the House of Lords has voted the Address. Lord Salisbury, referring to China, said the future was not in the hands of Great Britain, that she must deal with the Chinese Government as a going concern, securing the execution of treaties and safeguarding the interests of Britshers. Continuing, Lord Salisbury said that Great Britain did not contemplate any acquisition of territory or the dismemberment of Eastern Empires and that her advantages for the past year were greater than before, and greater in comparison to those of other nations.

It is rumoured among the natives in Canton that Viceroy Tan of the two Kwang will very soon retire from his post, which he has been occupying for the last six or seven years, being too old to continue any longer in the service. The first time he memorialized the Throne for permission to retire he had two months' leave granted him to recruit his health, and the second time four taels of ginseung were sent to him from his Imperial Mistress to strengthen and repair his wasted constitution. The Provincial Governor Luk Chuiu-lam will probably act for him, and the late Provincial Treasurer, Shum Chun-huin, who gained so much popularity in Canton, will return to take up the post of the provincial Governor.

Mr. Litton, now Acting Consul at Chungking, is to be transferred to the post of Second Assistant at Canton, and is to be succeeded at Chungking by Mr. M. F. C. Fraser, now at Wuhu. The *N. C. Daily News* gives the following further movements in the Consular Service:—We understand that Mr. E. F. Bennett is to succeed Mr. Playfair at Ningpo. Mr. Clennell succeeds Mr. Fraser at Wuhu. Mr. H. Wilkinson has gone home from Pakhoi, and is succeeded there by Mr. Hurst. Mr. Colin Ford retires in March, when Mr. Playfair goes to Swatow. Mr. E. L. B. Allen goes home on leave from Newchwang this spring, and will be succeeded by Mr. Hosie. Mr. H. A. Little goes as Assistant to Amoy.

The Japanese House of Representatives has just passed the Tonnage Dues Bill, in the following form:—"Five cents per ton will be levied on ships calling at one port only; ten cents for more than one port; and thirty cents for all ports for one year. No duty will be levied on ships' stores, and all tonnage dues are to be paid in advance."

In speaking of Lieutenant Hobson's present appointment Secretary Long said:—"Rear-Admiral Dewey telegraphs me he would like to have a constructor detailed to superintend the work of reconstruction and conversion. Knowing Hobson's ability and familiarity with the work, I assigned him to take charge at Hongkong. If other ships are to be raised, Lieutenant Hobson will go to Manila. I intend this detail of Lieutenant Hobson to this important work as a compliment and in part as recognition of his great service and ability."

On Sunday morning, about 6 a.m., the foreign community of Shamen were aroused by the alarm of fire. On going out to ascertain the cause they found the houses on the Canal Road, opposite the West Bridge, enveloped in flames, and owing to the direction of the wind the houses in the neighbouring part of the Settlement seemed in some danger, owing to the flying sparks and embers. The Shamen Fire Brigade at once got to work and threw streams of water on the burning property, and at the same time the mat-shed quarters of the Chinese soldiers stationed at the West Bridge to guard Shamen were pulled down. The fire was not got under until some twenty or thirty houses had been burnt. The outbreak originated in an opium divan.

The home Government has decided to accept the original suggestion of the Straits Government with reference to the military charges of the colony, namely, that the contribution for military purposes should be fixed at 20 per cent. of the annual revenue instead of 17½ per cent., and that the cost of new works and lodging allowances should cease to be separately paid for. It is intended that the new arrangement shall take effect as from the 1st of January, 1895, from which date payment of the twenty per cent. aforesaid will cover all military charges on the colony. This involves a refund to the colony of \$278,318, being amount paid in excess of 25 per cent. since the date named. A Bill is now before the Legislative Council to give effect to the new arrangement.

A New York despatch of the 7th January says:—A Washington special to the *Herald* says: By the confirmation of the nomination of R. A. Mosely, Jr., of Alabama, as Consul General at Singapore the Senate has caused the retirement from the consular service of E. Spencer Pratt, also of Alabama. While it is said at the State Department that Mr. Pratt's retirement is due to the fact that the President some time ago promised the position to Mr. Mosely, it is no secret that the Senate has received from Secretary Hay, though the State Department, communications from the retiring Consul showing that he had been injudicious in his relations with Aguinaldo and the Philippine junta at Singapore. Consul Pratt, in fact, is accused by all Europeans along the coast from Singapore to Yokohama of having been the veritable sponsor of Aguinaldo and his pretensions.

**LORD SALISBURY'S POLICY IN CHINA.**

(Daily Press, 14th February.)

The speeches made at the opening of Parliament reveal pretty plainly what the policy of the British Government is to be in China. Lord SALISBURY is all for bolstering up the Sick Man of the Far East. Great Britain, says his lordship, "must deal with the Chinese Government as a going concern, "securing the execution of treaties and "safeguarding the interests" of British subjects. Lord SALISBURY added that Great Britain did not contemplate any acquisition of territory or the dismemberment of Eastern Empires. The declaration of the Government's policy was cordially welcomed in the House of Commons by Sir EDWARD GREY, on behalf of the Radical party. Mr. Sir. JOHN BRODRICK, Parliamentary Secretary to the Foreign Office, in the course of the debate, said he anticipated great results from the opening of Nanning-fu, and deprecated hostility and jealousy towards other Powers. Sir EDWARD GREY echoed this sentiment, and went a step further by advocating a candid understanding with Russia. No Englishman will, we imagine, object to a fair and proper understanding with Russia, if it can be arrived at and put on a stable basis. Great Britain has no desire to check Russia's legitimate and natural aspirations. She must fully sympathise with the desire shown by Russia to establish railway communication from Russia to the Pacific. The trans-Siberian Railway is a truly great and noble work, and will do more for the march of civilisation than half a dozen wars, or than any commercial or educational propaganda could accomplish in a quarter of a century. It is not surprising that Russia should desire for the Pacific terminus of this important line an ice-free port and one that can be defended from attack and at the same time be developed into a great commercial emporium. That she should take advantage of China's weakness to secure the realization of this project cannot be wondered at. It is certain as fate that the Peking Government would never have yielded an inch of soil or a single advantage to Russia if she could have ventured to refuse them. The insistence shown by the Chinese Government in demanding the retrocession of the Kuldja in 1881 is sufficient proof of the spirit that animated the Mandarins when they thought that China was strong enough to press for the restoration of her ancient rights. The Russian Government have waited and watched for their opportunity; they took exceedingly good care that Japan should not secure a footing on the Liaotung peninsula; and when the time seemed ripe they put in their claim for the reversion of that territory with a success that ten years ago could neither have been foreseen nor expected. Had they failed to strike at the golden moment they would certainly not have been true to their traditions. But while this step was natural on their part, it was only right that Great Britain should, on her part, see to the protection of her own goods. No understanding had been arrived at with Russia, who in her diplomacy combines some of the Oriental subtlety with the keenness of Western statecraft, and there was a danger at one time of a collision, which would have been unfortunate probably for all parties. Sir EDWARD GREY's proposal, therefore, that a candid understanding with Russia should be sought and obtained is worthy of careful consideration, and we trust will yet be carried into effect by the British Foreign Office.

The great results anticipated by Mr. BRODRICK from the opening of Nanning-fu will, we sincerely hope, be fully realised. The trade of the West River is yet in its infancy, but it is in course of development, and if vigorously guarded and watched over will assuredly become of great value, both to this colony and foreign industry generally. But this development can only be realised subject to certain conditions. The West River must be opened along its entire length free from the restrictions which at present fetter it and which prevent foreign shipping from participating in it except under such disadvantages as must end in exclusion. There must be equality of treatment in the carriage of native goods by foreign and Chinese steamers from place to place on the inland waterways; the Inland Water Regulations must be made applicable to all inland waters, to all steamers using them whether going between Treaty Ports or not. The North and East Rivers should also be opened along their entire navigable courses, being part of the great inland system of waterways in South China, and, lastly, a determined crusade against piracy must be undertaken on the West River. At present there is no security for trade, and very little for life. A system for efficiently policing the river and of restoring order in the villages and towns in the delta must be devised, and if necessary placed in the hands of foreigners. The Chinese officials are so hopelessly corrupt and so grossly incompetent that it seems absolutely useless to expect any effective system to be evolved by them unassisted. The Viceroy of the Two Kwang might, however, be induced to appoint a European with Chinese and European assistant officers to raise a sort of marine police to patrol the waterways and protect honest traders.

**A "TIMES" BLUNDER.**

(Daily Press 13th February)

The danger of using imperfectly understood catch-phrases such as the "open door" and spheres of influence is illustrated in an article in the *Times* of the 9th January on the French claims at Shanghai. Our trade with Shanghai, says the writer, is enormous, and the amount of British capital invested there in permanent improvements is very large. "True to the policy of the 'open door,'" the article continues, "we have claimed for ourselves no exclusive privileges, in spite of the long and decisive predominance of our material stake in the town. In common with the Americans, the Germans, and the members of almost all other European nationalities, our merchants and traders live and thrive in the general European settlement, the prosperity of which is so largely their handiwork. The French, on the other hand, who cleared 115,000 tons of shipping at Shanghai in 1896 as against two millions-and-a-quarter tons cleared under our flag, have set up there an exclusive settlement of their own, though some of their merchants, it is true, prefer the self-government of the general European quarter to the paternal officialdom of the Republic. The distinctive feature of the French settlement, we need hardly say, is that it keeps the door very tightly shut." The latter statement, if the "door" refers to trade is absolutely untrue. The untruth is of course due to ignorance, not to evil intent, but it is none the less mischievous. It is unfortunate when a good case is spoiled by bad arguments, and it is still worse when the case is ruined by misstate-

ments of fact. In the French concession at Shanghai French trade enjoys no preference, and if it be true that some French merchants "prefer the self-government of the general European quarter to the paternal officialdom of the Republic" it is none the less true that some British merchants have found it to their interest to locate themselves on the French concession and that one of the leading British shipping firms has its wharves there. The Customs duties are of course the same in both concessions, that being a matter with which neither municipality has anything to do, and the local taxation in the French concession is if anything rather lighter than in the general concession. On the French Municipal Council also, there are members of other nationalities than French. The French concession, however, is necessarily a sphere of French influence, and therefore, according to the *Times* theory, the door must necessarily be closed, although as a matter of fact it stands wide open. The objections to the French claims at Shanghai are well founded, but they do not rest on any allegation that French protectionism has been introduced in the French concession, for such is not the case. Mr. FRANCIS proposes to tell us all about "spheres of influence" and the "open door" in an address to the Odd Volumes Society this afternoon, and we would commend to the learned Queen's Counsel the *Times* blunder as an example of the necessity of narrowly defining the meaning of the phrases instead of giving them a vague and indefinite scope and reading into them a contradiction that does not necessarily exist. It would be better, indeed, if the use of the terms could be dropped altogether, for it only leads to confusion of thought. We are continually told, and we all believe, that there is little or no hope of reform in China unless under pressure from without and pressure from without necessarily means the exercise of foreign influence. In the nature of things it seems almost inevitable that in different spheres this influence should be exercised more directly by some Powers than by others. The position and importance of Hongkong should make British influence preponderant in the neighbouring province. France having in her possession of Tonkin a conterminous boundary with Yunnan must of necessity thereby exercise some influence upon that province, and, to her credit be it said, she has enforced strict observance of the transit pass privilege in spirit as well as in letter, which is more than we have done in Kwangtung; Russia also must necessarily make her influence felt in Manchuria; and Germany cannot fail to do the same in Shantung. We may inveigh against spheres of influence as much as we like, but their growth is inevitable. There is no reason, however, why there should not be absolute equality of tradeal privileges in each individual sphere.

**MR. FRANCIS'S LECTURE ON SPHERES OF INFLUENCE AND THE OPEN DOOR.**

(Daily Press, 15th February.)

We regret that circumstances prevented our giving such a full report of Mr. FRANCIS's lecture on "Spheres of Influence" and the "open Door" as the importance of the subject and the instructive and interesting manner in which it was treated would ordinarily have demanded. At the outset Mr. FRANCIS took exception to our criticism of an article in the *Times*, the writer of which we suggested had been led into a misstatement of fact by the assumption that

the terms "sphere of influence" and the "open door" were necessarily antagonistic. Mr. FRANCIS said the *Times* might be wrong in its facts, but he did not think there had been a misuse of the phrases in question. On that point we adhere to our original opinion, and are inclined to think that if the writer of the *Times* article were asked as to how he came to make a mistake in his statement of facts he would admit that it was owing to his not having reflected that an open door might co-exist with a sphere of influence. Mr. FRANCIS at the close of his lecture showed that the co-existence of a sphere of influence and the open door was possible, though he considered that it was extremely improbable where the sphere of influence appertained to any other Power than England.

We would suggest for Mr. FRANCIS's consideration the expediency of his casting his lecture into the form of a magazine article for the benefit of readers and what is perhaps more important—public speakers and writers at home. The lecture, however, interesting and instructive as it was, still left the hearer in a state of some confusion, inasmuch as the lecturer admitted in his introduction that the phrases he proposed to explain the meanings of were not capable as yet of accurate definition. He explained very clearly what spheres of influence meant in Africa, and he suggested that in China they must mean something of the same kind. We would submit on the contrary that there is a wide distinction. The claims that the various Powers have pegged out in Africa under the name of spheres of influence may be regarded in the light of freehold estates which the owners are at liberty to develop at their leisure and deal with as they like. The so-called spheres of influence in China cannot yet be regarded as freehold estates or as having passed under the exclusive control of the Powers with whose names they are coupled, and hence we maintain that the term is inapplicable if it is intended to carry the same meaning as in the savage wilds of Africa. The Powers are gathering round China as the affectionate relatives gather round the bed of a sick man who has money to leave. The relatives in ordinary course will not proceed with the division of the sick man's estate until after his demise, they may even sincerely hope for his recovery, but they deem it prudent to put in an appearance and keep an eye on each other, each being concerned for the protection of his individual interest in case the disease should have a fatal termination. Great Britain, or at least Lord SALISBURY, certainly does not desire the death of China, and Germany is credited with similar benevolent sentiments, while France and Russia, though itching to come into possession of their expected shares of the property, are not prepared to offend decency too openly by taking it outright. In the meantime, however, all parties settle down to await events and make themselves as comfortable as they can, and with a lot of hungry relatives in the house the sick man's substance is likely to be eaten into whether he dies or recovers.

Dropping metaphor, however, we come to the important question of what England's policy in China should be. This point was not dealt with by Mr. FRANCIS except by an allusion to its importance. He told us, however, that he feared it was now too late to prevent the policy of spheres of influence, but that before 1894 Great Britain might have done so by warning all other Powers that she would regard any aggression upon China as an unfriendly act. Would it have been wise to do so? We are perhaps not in-

correct in inferring that Mr. FRANCIS to-day, under the influence of recent events and discussions, thinks it would have been wise. He did not seem to think so four years ago, and we venture to prophecy that he will not think so four years hence. We are familiar with Mr. FRANCIS's speeches and lectures and know how trenchantly he deals with any subject he takes up, but one of the best speeches he has ever made was at the indignation meeting held at the City Hall in August, 1895, in connection with the Kucheng massacre. He had nothing to say then about England guaranteeing the integrity of China, on the contrary he told us that "China in its present condition is not capable of being reformed. A revolution of the deepest character is necessary; and until the Empire has been broken up and cast into a crucible and melted down no effective reform of the Government or of the people of China is possible." He asked what we were in the habit of demanding from other nations when outrages occurred, and, answering his own question, he said "If a Consul is insulted and offended an enormous indemnity is demanded, and if not paid, blue jackets are landed and take possession of a town." "Why," he again asked, "has not the Chinese Government been treated in the same way?" Proceeding in impassioned language to denounce the barbarity of the outrage that had been committed he continued, "Now, there is but one remedy. The Chinese Government are absolutely unable to give us or the English Government adequate satisfaction. Therefore as between nation and nation there is but one remedy; satisfaction must be taken." It was upon that principle, so clearly enunciated by Mr. FRANCIS, that Germany acted when she took Kiaochow. And would Mr. FRANCIS, reading the report which appears in another column of this issue of the infamous outrage committed upon Father VICTORIN, say that England should warn France that the exactation of satisfaction for that outrage would be regarded as an unfriendly act? We know not. We may well warn France or any other Power that no interference with our right to trade with the people will be tolerated, but we should blush for England if she interfered to protect the Government of China from the natural and righteous consequences of wrongful acts of this description, so often repeated and never sincerely repented of. As Mr. FRANCIS said in 1895, "until the Empire has been broken up and cast into a crucible and melted down no effective reform of the Government or of the people of China is possible." The breaking up has now commenced, and England's policy, as it seems to us, is not to try to save the wicked and corrupt Government of China, but to look after her own interests in the country and, if spheres are to be allotted to the several Powers, to see that her own sphere is commensurate with her just claims and that the spheres of other Powers are not closed to her trade.

It is stated in home papers received by yesterday's mail that as soon as the Chinese Squadron ships have left Portsmouth the *St. George*, cruiser, will be fitted out to relieve the *Grafton* on the China Station.

There is a rumour, at present unconfirmed, says a home paper, that the German Government is considering the advisability of raising a local force of Chinese in Kiaochow. This project, it is said, has been suggested by Prince Henry, who holds the opinion that the Chinese in the province might be trained with advantage to the colony and the mother-country.

#### ANOTHER ANTI-MISSIONARY OUTRAGE.

(*Daily Press*, 16th February.)

The particulars of the murder of the Rev. Father VICTORIN at Shihkushan, in the province of Hupeh, are not calculated to inspire confidence in the Chinese people, and they afford a fresh proof of the mingled incapacity and unwillingness of officials to protect foreigners in the interior. The Rev. Father, who belonged to the French Roman Catholic Mission in Hupeh, was a Belgian by birth, named JEAN DELBROUCK, about twenty-nine years of age, a fine young fellow full of enthusiasm for his calling, who only came out to China some eighteen months back. He fell a victim to the Kolao Hui, a society whose fanatical hatred to foreigners has for years past been fanned to a white heat by the scurrilous, scandalous, and slanderous literature prepared by the gentry and literati of the Hu Kwang provinces, and of which such a thorough exposure was some years since made by the Rev. GRIFFITH JOHN at the time of the series of outrages and massacres in the towns of the Yangtsze Valley early in the present decade. This literary garbage and poison still exists and periodically brings forth bloody fruit. It sows the seeds of distrust and hatred of the foreigner and especially of the Christian religion, and the ignorant learn to regard the foreign religion as something hateful and abominable which it is a positive merit to root out and destroy. It is due to these slanderous and infamous libels on the foreigner that nearly every outrage has occurred; certainly, all premeditated attacks on Mission premises in that region have been distinctly traceable to the inflammatory literature issued from the presses of Changsha and other cities of Huaw.

The murder of Father VICTORIN was a peculiarly shocking and cruel one. The assassins must have been the most heartless of savages, the most brutal of even Oriental mankind. The details of this atrocious crime—a crime alike against humanity and civilisation—are so entirely revolting that it is difficult to believe that any race except the worst of the North American Indians could be guilty of such sickening cruelty. Even the Red Man's savagery is equalled by the brute beasts of Hupeh. This unoffending young priest, whose only crime was that he wished to teach to the Chinese what he considered "a more excellent way" than Buddhism or the cold philosophy of CONFUCIUS provides, was first subjected to the most hideous tortures, then barbarously done to death, and finally horribly mutilated. After attacking the Mission premises the rioters caught the priest, who had made a temporary escape, and first cruelly beat him. They next stripped him nearly naked, tied him on a board and carried him back to his former abode, where a large and bloodthirsty crowd was assembled, who had just indulged their lust for cruelty by slaughtering some of the converts and burning their houses. Father VICTORIN was here tied up to a tree, and while in that position slices of his flesh were cut off and eaten in his presence by some of his tormentors, who must also, from the condition of the body, have applied fire to it, while slugs were fired into non-vital parts. After thus torturing the wretched man, they cut his body open from the chest to the bottom of the abdomen and disembowelled and mutilated it in a nameless manner. The head was cut off and the brain entirely removed. The accounts add that the various organs were taken out of the body and eaten.

by the crowd, who also drank up their victim's blood. One of the eyes was gouged out. And these people are supposed to be semi-civilised! The worst savages in Africa could not furnish proof of more appalling depravity and barbarity.

The remains after much trouble were at length delivered up by the officials, but in a manner which showed their utter indifference. The body was placed in a beggar coffin without a lid, unattended, and deposited on the beach in view of the rabble, who jeered at it without any attempt by the authorities to repress such exhibition of ill feeling. But the poor remains were an eloquent witness against them, and their condition will not fail to excite the indignation of all Christendom against the horrible brutality of the Chinese people, and the shameless indifference of their officials. Is this a Government that we as a civilised Power can feel justified in bolstering up? This is a question that Lord SALISBURY and his colleagues may usefully ask themselves. It may be doubted whether the missionaries are wise or even justified in attempting to carry on their work in places far removed from the coast, where foreign flags fly, and the utility of courting so painful a martyrdom for the doubtful chance of making a very few converts may also be questioned. But if the Chinese Government permit of the residence of foreign missionaries in the interior of China, they are bound to protect both their lives and their property. It is notorious that, if the mob become stirred by the gentry to anti-foreign action, the officials often look on passively or silently acquiesce in the crusade against the unlucky foreigners. What sympathy can any civilised nation feel for so inhuman a people, what desire can they have to support them against the encroachment of any civilised State. Russia may be guilty of many shortcomings in administration, but under the rule of the Czar such atrocities as the one above related would never be tolerated. Under such conditions, indeed, " Better fifty years of (any part of) Europe than a cycle of Cathay." Let us hope that there will be no more talk of bolstering up China. Let the Empire as at present administered crumble to pieces. There is no health in it, and the sooner the fact is recognised the better. China's salvation must come from without, and it will be the result of diplomacy, or of persuasion, or of missions, or of political or commercial intercourse. It will only come out of a drastic reform of the administration, the abolition of the mandarin as he is.

#### THE POST OFFICE AND THE NEW POSTMASTER GENERAL.

(*Daily Press*, 16th February.)

The Post Office yesterday passed under the charge of Commander HASTINGS, who has been appointed to the office of Postmaster-General. If any of our local officials is capable of bringing the department into order Commander HASTINGS is the man. He has had experience in many appointments, has proved himself capable in all, and being a man of phenomenal energy he will no doubt be able to cope with the duties of the Post Office with that attention to detail that is essential to the successful working of the department. It is not to be expected that complaints will entirely cease, for under the best regulated administration occasion for complaints will arise, as it does occasionally in connection with the elaborately organised postal administration of the United Kingdom, but Commander HASTINGS, we venture to predict, will

always be found ready to give due attention to complaints and wherever possible to remove the cause. In this connection we would bespeak for the new Postmaster-General the assistance of the public by making complaints to him direct, either verbally or by letter, when there is anything to complain about, for it is by this means that the cause of the complaints is most likely to be ascertained and rectified; and Commander Hastings, being a man of sense, will naturally welcome reasonable complaints, as they will afford him information enabling him the better to carry on his work.

Assuming that the vacancy in the Post Office had to be filled from amongst the members of the local service the colony is to be congratulated on Captain HASTINGS's appointment, but it would have been more in the public interest, we think, had a trained man from St. Martins-le-Grand been appointed. Commander Hastings has to learn the work without the advantage of learning it in an office already well organised. And, we hear, he is not even to have the advantage of a trained assistant. It will be remembered that a few months ago General BLACK, then administering the Government, suggested to the Colonial Office that the appointment of Assistant Postmaster General, now vacant, should be filled from the London Post Office. It is reported that instead of complying with this request the Colonial Office has taken the opportunity of exercising its right of patronage by promoting a gentleman from another colony who has had no special training beyond serving for a time in a small colonial Post Office. There was no need to send outside the colony for a man of that description, as the appointment could equally well have been filled locally. The gentleman selected may possibly prove admirably adapted for the post, but lacking special training for it he cannot *prima facie* be considered duly qualified. What was wanted was a thoroughly trained man. The unofficial members of Council and the Chamber of Commerce might with good reason make strong representations, through the Government, to the Colonial Office on the advisability of giving effect to General BLACK's recommendation.

#### THE PROPOSED SCHOOL AND ORPHANAGE FOR GIRLS.

(*Daily Press*, 14th February).

The proposal to establish a Church of England day and boarding school for girls, chiefly Eurasians, will no doubt command public support on general principles, but the scheme as put forward at the meeting held at St. Paul's College on Thursday last seems to call for some modification. The school is principally designed, as we understand, to provide for the children of irregular unions between European men and Chinese females. Such children, not enjoying the advantages of wholesome home influences, are fit objects for the solicitude of the charitably disposed. No one would wish to visit the indiscretions of the father on the children, and it is, moreover, the duty of every community, either through the machinery of the state or by private effort, to see that every child, no matter what its origin, is provided with a sound elementary education. But the education proposed to be given in the Church of England School for Girls is to be a "liberal" education, and from the speeches made at the meeting it would appear that the word "liberal" as used in the resolution is intended to carry its usual meaning, namely, that of a high class education. Placing that

construction on the resolution the public may possibly have some difficulty in understanding why the children of irregular unions should be selected by public charity for educational advantages that can be enjoyed by only a limited proportion of the children of lawful wedlock. There are, for instance, the children of the police, of the Naval Yard employés, and of many other small-salaried Europeans, for whom no one thinks of providing any education superior to that obtainable at the Belilius Public School for Girls, which, it may be remarked, is a sound and serviceable education. Why should a higher education be provided for girls whose only claim to it is that their fathers and mothers were not married? We do not overlook the fact that the children of married parents will not be excluded and that others than Eurasians will be admitted, but the *raison d'être* of the school is to provide for the children of irregular unions and it is on behalf of that class that an appeal is to be made to the public. We admit the duty of making provision for the education of such children, but it seems to us that it would be more in accordance with the circumstances of the case to give them simply a sound elementary education and a training that would fit them for domestic service or other useful occupations rather than to aim at giving them an education comprising all the accomplishments usually included in the curriculum of high grade schools for girls in England.

#### THE FIGHTING AT MANILA.

##### FULL DETAILS.

##### HOW THE COLLISION WAS BROUGHT ABOUT.

##### AGUINALDO'S FLAG OF TRUCE REJECTED.

##### NARRATIVES OF EYE-WITNESSES.

Hongkong, 13th February.  
After waiting for almost a week, the telegrams received in the city being of the most meagre description, we are now in possession of full details of the circumstances attending the breaking out of hostilities between the Americans and Filipinos at Manila. There is now no reason to doubt that the Filipinos, with or without the knowledge of Aguinaldo, were primarily responsible for the collision, and whatever may be said to the contrary there is every reason to believe that it was premeditated. The safety of the Europeans in Manila is by this time assured, but that their position on Saturday, 4th inst., was a precarious one is now only too apparent. The Filipinos rigorously excluded the Americans, whether civilians or otherwise, from crossing their lines. No such restrictions were, however, placed upon them, with the result that Filipino officers wandered freely about the streets of Manila and were thus able to make any arrangements they pleased with the natives in preparation for a rising. Arms, ammunition, and bolas have been found to have been distributed in every direction.

The story of the outbreak is told by the *Manila Times* of Monday, Feb. 6th, as follows:

"On Saturday evening, shortly before eight o'clock, 40 or 50 rebel soldiers tried to occupy a position within the lines of the South Dakota regiment outposts at Santa Mesa, as they have tried on several previous evenings. They probably believed that, at the worst, their attempt would only lead to explanations and palaverings, as before, and perhaps they might trespass on the Americans' forbearance so as to gain some advantage in position.

"They encountered a corporal and five privates of the South Dakotas, who ordered them back. Instead of retiring the rebels ran forward as if to cut off the Americans from their camp and capture them, as occurred in

ther parts of the line recently. The Nebraska men fired, and immediately hundreds of rebels on the vicinity responded.

"A general engagement ensued all along the line as far as Balik-Balik in the north-east and Pasaye in the south-east. Both the American and the rebel troops had long been expecting a fight and were tired of waiting, but it seems probable that the rebels had not fixed any particular time to attack, for they did not begin in the Tonda district until after 10 p.m., while Malate was quiet until early morning.

"A general call to arms was sounded about eight o'clock, some regiments getting the word later, but by half-past eight all were out. The intense strain and anxiety of the past few weeks made the men all the keener for the fight. Several officers hurrying to the front in carriages were attacked by Filipinos in the street. Colonel Cotton shot one who tried to cut him with a bola; Colonel Frost had a similar experience, and General King was attacked by a man who escaped but was afterwards taken prisoner at Paco.

"Paco Church was held by a number of rebel sharp shooters, who kept their position bravely till the Americans shelled them out. The church and part of Paco village were burned. The rebels were driven back with a rush. Santa Ana and Pandacan were captured and hundreds of rebels killed. Many hid in nipa huts and American soldiers were shot from the huts. On the places being searched scores of mudbespattered natives without uniform were taken, having plainly been in the trenches and swamps. It is believed that hundreds of rebels tried to escape by swimming the river but were shot or drowned.

Tondo was attacked so vigorously that the cruiser *Charleston*, which had been watching closely and signalling to Admiral Dewey, had to shell the rebel stronghold of Caloocan. This is now almost entirely demolished. The Leyte and Callao also did much damage. Some of the dark bye-ways of Tondo were full of armed natives ready to rise against the Americans, but their allies outside failed to get in and so there was no rising. Before daylight Malate was attacked and the firing was severe until ten o'clock. The monitor *Monadnock* fired 400 or 500 shells, clearing the whole country,

"The captured rebel trenches all along the line are filled with dead bodies, lying in heaps huddled together. Santa Ana is particularly a ghastly sight. The house of Mr. Coney, of Messrs. Stevenson and Co., is an utter wreck. The rebel losses cannot be less than 5,000. The Americans lost about 40 killed and a hundred seriously wounded. Fifty of the Igorotes, the naked wild men from the hills, with bows and arrows, were killed, and 300 of them were taken prisoner by Captain Mackie. Their head-gear, made of roosters' feathers, make fine trophies of the fight."

Alluding to Monday's operations the *Manila Times* says:—

"At two o'clock yesterday afternoon an expedition under General Hall, consisting of four companies of 1st Nebraskas, under Colonel Stottenburg, and two 3½ inches guns of the Utah Battery with two smaller Hotchkiss rifles, set out to extend the eastern line to the waterworks. At the reservoir there was a reserve of one battalion of the 2nd Oregon and two companies of the 23rd U.S. Infantry. The march was a perfect combination of artillery and infantry; the Utah's guns filled the brush with shrapnel, and then the infantry spread out in a long line and drove the few remaining Insurgents in front of them. It was more like a jack rabbit hunt than anything else. From the top of the hill overlooking the waterworks hundreds of natives could be seen across the river in the valley beyond. Four shells were thrown in among them, and in less than five minutes they had scattered to the village of Marquinan. The works themselves were deserted, and the cylinder heads, steam chest fixings, and some valves had been removed, but General Patter stated that a week would suffice to clear them out."

#### A BRITISHER'S EXPERIENCE.

On Saturday morning the *Esmeralda*, which left Manila on Wednesday afternoon, arrived, bringing with her about 60 passengers, including about 20 priests and some women and children. Detailing his experiences to a re-

presentative of the *Daily Press*, a gentleman who came over with the *Esmeralda* said:—

"On Saturday night of last week I was at the Circus, which is within half a mile of the outposts where the shooting first took place. As a rule when there are any circus performances going on the place is crowded with natives, but I was surprised to notice that on this particular night there were not more than 20 there. The audience, however, included a good many American soldiers and the reserved seats were filled with members of the aristocracy.

"The first part of the programme was over before the alarm was given. Then somebody came to the door and shouted 'Quarters, boys, the rebels are on us.' Within a minute there was not a soldier in the Circus. One of the circus people got up and said the alarm was a false one, and we thought his announcement was correct when three or four minutes afterwards 30 or 40 of the soldiers came back, and the performance was continued. The shooting, however, continued to increase, and we began to realise that it was much too near to us to be comfortable. Consequently the performance was stopped and we came outside.

"We then saw that all was in confusion. People were flying all over the place. Europeans were hurrying towards the town whilst natives laden with their belongings were making their way to the outskirts of the city as fast as they could. I saw two of them stopped by American sentries, and two great big knives (bolos) were taken from them. What surprised me was that the soldiers did not punish them in any way. They merely took their bolos from them and told them to 'git.' There was an awful commotion in the city that night. I was stopped twice on my way down to my quarters and told to keep from under the verandahs and to walk in the middle of the road, because people with white faces were all the same to the natives. Soldiers were going about in all directions, bugles were sounding, and there was tremendous excitement all over. The firing had by this time—it was about 12 o'clock—got right round the city. You may depend upon it nobody slept that night. As a precautionary measure a great many women and children were taken aboard the *St. Paul*.

"The firing continued up to morning, when the warships came on the job, the Americans having evidently made up their minds to give the natives all they wanted. At about half-past four on Sunday I strolled towards the outskirts of the town Malate way and saw scores of wounded natives being brought in. It was in this direction that the Americans had a pretty hot time, one of their regiments being completely surrounded by natives at one period. I, however, did not see any American wounded brought in. I did not go right up to the lines, as I was told that the sight was anything but nice. Some people went all the same, and had narrow escapes. Two Britishers who had ventured too far out were arrested by the Filipinos, who took them for Americans. They were kept all night in a house with a guard over them. They got away on Monday morning, but not before some one had been sent for to the city to come and identify them. The fight continued all Sunday night and was resumed on Monday, when there was very heavy firing.

"I was given to understand on Monday that the Americans were about to attack Pasig and Malolos, where Aguinaldo's best soldiers are stationed, and they expected a stiff job. When we left on Wednesday afternoon they were going to attempt to take Malolos. I went into town on Monday. The shops were shut and there was no business doing. A sentry was on guard on the Punta del Espagua examining every native who went across. By Tuesday night you could scarcely hear the firing, the Insurgents having been driven completely away. You could only hear the heavy guns.

"In the city of course no one talked of anything but the war. An American soldier told me a very strange thing. He had been at the engagement, and he said that he and some comrades were standing in a perfect shower of bullets. They could hear the 'ping' of the rifle continuously, but where the bullets came from they could not understand. They were on the alert and had their guns at their shoulders, but they could see nothing to fire at. There were plenty of trees covered with leaves about, but they could discern no one among the branches,

and they came to the conclusion the firing came from another direction—which they could not say, as smokeless powder was being used by the natives. All at once an American shell burst within a short distance of them, and four natives dropped from a tree to the ground like shot crows. They had been up a tree trying to pot them, and as they were using smokeless powder they could not locate them; but when the shell burst it brought them all down. One of the shells thrown by one of the warships has the credit of killing over 100 natives. It fell right in the centre of one of their entrenchments.

"I don't think there is any need to fear for the white population now. The only thing to fear is the burning of the city by the natives who are in the city. In order to be prepared for this emergency Mr. Ramsden, the British Acting Consul, has issued a notice in which he says:—'In case of fires breaking out and town rendered untenable, British subjects are to concentrate at the British Consulate and the Manila Club, Ermita, where boats will take them off into the Bay.'

"On Wednesday the Tennessee Regiment, over 1,000 strong, left for Iloilo in the *St. Paul*. A man-of-war or two went there as well. I believe the Americans purposed giving the Insurgents at Iloilo only a short time in which to make up their minds. It is not correct that the Americans have taken Malolos, as the attack on the town had not been made at the time the report was published.

"There was one thing that gave general dissatisfaction in Manila. I do not know who authorised them, but the soldiers got hold of all the carriages which they found driving about and having turned the occupants out drove in them to where they were wanted. A number of Filipinos who had been treated in this summary fashion made a complaint at headquarters and in consequence the soldiers were notified not to interfere with private vehicles, but it was very bad on Sunday and Monday. I myself was strolling down the Escolta when I saw some soldiers stop a vehicle, make the occupants—two natives—get outside, and drive away in it themselves. I also saw them stop a carriage containing a Britisher. He, however, would not get out and after a while they ceased to bother him.

"At the time of the outbreak a lot of Britishers were living on the outskirts, and some of them had very narrow escapes. Mr. Fitton, who had a wooden bungalow at Santa Ana told me that his house was literally riddled with shot, as it stood directly in the line of fire. The occupants saved themselves by getting underneath the raised flooring.

"As to the losses, I should think the American losses up to the time we left were 200 killed and wounded; the Insurgent killed and wounded would number 5,000 or 6,000.

"I was told that Aguinaldo had displayed a flag of truce, but that Dewey had refused to recognise it, adding that the Filipinos had started the fighting and they would have to abide by it. An old Filipino told me that it was the best thing which could have happened, as if the Americans gave the Filipinos a thorough good drubbing now they would have peace for the next 50 years. American soldiers whom I have spoken to complained that the taunts and gibes they have had to put up with from the Filipinos have been awful. It was quite a common thing for a Filipino to tell them that they could not fight and that one Filipino was better than a dozen Americans.

"General Otis gave orders for all the wooden shanties to be destroyed, because from many of them American soldiers who had been passing had been shot at. A lot of arms and ammunition was found in some of them. A box two feet long and one broad was found on the dock wall, and when it was opened it was found to be filled with bolos.

"With a view to being ready should the Insurgents cut off the water, on Saturday condensing engines were got to work at the riverside."

#### WHAT AN AMERICAN HEARD AND SAW.

On Friday there arrived in Hongkong per the *Tailee* an American gentleman named Mr. Crocker, who saw a good deal of the stirring events at Manila. During the preceding week by representing himself as

an Englishman he had been able to get through the Insurgent lines with a French officer. He, however, experienced considerable difficulty in doing so. No such obstacles were placed in the way of those members of the Filipino troops who wished to enter the city, provided they left their arms behind them, though they do not seem to have been invariably searched. He found that there were about as many Filipinos under arms as Americans, and in many cases the opposing sentries were within whispering distance of each other. He corroborates the statement as to the American soldiers having to put up with all kinds of insulting language from the Insurgent sentries, saying that the Filipinos would frequently walk up to them, point their bayonets at their faces, and taunt them. The American soldiers had, however, strict orders to take no notice of them unless they fired, when the firing was to be returned with interest. Mr. Crocker informed a representative of the *Daily Press* that before the outbreak took place soldiers to whom he had been speaking frequently exclaimed to him, "We can't stand it much longer!" Mr. Crocker added that in firing upon the Americans the Filipinos wished to see how much the Americans would stand. Continuing he said:—

"Though the relations between the Americans and the Filipinos were strained I do not think the Americans anticipated any immediate trouble, because the same evening I saw General Anderson and his wife driving along the Luneta.

"I was in the hotel when the trouble commenced. Someone said there had been a collision, and then I noticed carriages driving very rapidly through the streets and officers making their way to the front. It was about ten o'clock when the firing began, and a very few minutes afterwards a portion of the Kansas Regiment which was quartered near the hotel left for the front in double quick time. They went away so silently that notwithstanding their close proximity to the hotel I should not have known they were going had I not been in full view of their quarters. There was not the least confusion or shouting. The firing commenced on the road leading to the waterworks, where the Nebraska men were stationed, but it spread all along the line with great rapidity. There was a continuous roar from 10 to 12, when the firing slackened, to be resumed with increased fury at three o'clock on Sunday morning. After another pull it was again resumed, some of the warships joining. The *Monadnock* was stationed to the south and the *Charleston* to the north, they being subsequently reinforced by the *Concord* and the *Callao*. Admiral Dewey also came down in the *Olympia* and fired a few shots, but as he was right among the shipping and could not do much where he was he soon ceased. The *Monadnock* with her 12-inch guns and the *Charleston* with her 8-inch guns made a fearful noise, the reverberation shaking the earth.

"At the commencement the Filipinos gained a hundred yards or so, but on Sunday the Nebraska men pushed forward with the object of getting possession of the waterworks and carried all before them, backed up by the Utah Battery and the Tennessee men and the boys from Colorado and California. Ultimately they secured the reservoir—three miles away—and here they encamped for the night. The next day they again pushed on. Everybody was afraid lest the Filipinos would cut off the water supply, in which case considerable suffering would have been entailed upon the residents of the city. It would have been the easiest thing in the world for the Insurgents to have cut the pipes, which are exposed in many places and are of no great strength. The Insurgents had still possession of the pumping station, which is four miles beyond the reservoir. It was two o'clock in the afternoon when the Nebraska men resumed their advance, and by five o'clock the pumping station was in their possession. I cannot tell why the Filipinos did not make a better fight for the water-works or why when they saw they could not retain them they did not cut the pipes. I can only think it was because there are a great many Filipinos in the city who would have suffered just as much as anyone else had this been done. On Monday night the Americans took up an impregnable position which commanded a plain some three miles in extent, across which the defeated Filipinos were fleeing to the mountains. A few shots sent by

the battery into the village in the plain soon sent the inhabitants running helter-skelter for the cover of the hill-country. Here at any rate the resistance was absolutely broken down.

"In other directions, however, the Americans were not having such an easy time. In the direction of Malate, for instance, on the south and Binondo on the north, though the Insurgent lines were commanded by the men-of-war, the Insurgents made a stiff resistance. This is because they were the better able to do in consequence of their having availed themselves of the trenches recently occupied by the Spaniards and the Americans. The shells from the warships did fearful havoc. Now and then one would drop right in a trench, and then you would see men and trees rise in the air and scatter about.

"To the north of the city it was dangerous to walk about, as shots were continually being fired from houses, but in another direction I went as far as ten miles. The district to the north of the city, however, is occupied by a low class of natives who are ready for anything. It would have been a most serious thing had the natives risen en masse, because I do not see how our troops could have controlled them. There were immense stores of arms and ammunition concealed in houses and churches, and in many cases they could not be discovered without burning the houses down.

"Fighting was going on when we left on Tuesday, but it was a good distance away. Inside the city there was no great excitement. Except in a few cases the shops were open and business was going on. The Filipino car drivers and conductors were attending to their business as if nothing had happened. Some of the native servants had gone away but there were still enough left to meet requirements. The Filipinos in the city looked somewhat crestfallen at the course events had taken, but not so much as one might have expected.

"There is no doubt about it that the Filipinos in the city have been plotting for some time. I believe their intention was to rise at night, but when it came to the point they had not the system or the nerve to do it.

"The soldiers had orders to shoot any suspicious characters whom they discovered lurking about the streets after eight o'clock at night. The result was that there was absolutely nobody in the streets after that hour except soldiers.

"During the fighting Aguinaldo, who is believed to have been at Malolos, communicated with Dewey. He sent him a message in which he said, "For God's sake stop the firing" and disclaiming all responsibility in connection with the starting of the trouble. Dewey, however, refused to comply with the request and now I think Aguinaldo is accepting the situation. There was some talk of his resigning and washing his hands of the whole affair, but I do not think he will do that.

"The opinion is that it was not Aguinaldo who precipitated this thing but that his followers whom he could not control are responsible. Aguinaldo himself knows too much to do such a thing. He is much too smart a man for that. And then we know that if he had intended doing this he would have done it more systematically.

"As to the losses, those of the Filipinos may be anything from 5,000 killed and wounded to 10,000, and then there are several thousand prisoners. I saw 400 or 500 being brought in on Sunday and on Monday I saw 1,000 who had been taken. I should be inclined to place the American losses at 200 killed and wounded. With regard to the Filipinos I saw myself 50 lying dead in one field. There were the same number in the next, and a little further on there were 50 more. I heard a mining engineer say that there was a pile of 125 to bury in one lot. The *Monadnock* killed as many as 20 and 30, and sometimes 50, with one shell. The *Callao*, which kept steaming close to the shore, also did much damage with her guns.

"There is nothing of the nature of a panic among the Europeans. The ladies and children in the hotel were sent on to the *St. Paul* on Saturday night. They returned in a launch the next day and tried to land, but they were not allowed to do so. On Monday, however, they came again and were allowed to come ashore. Arrangements were made to bring some of them to Hongkong in the *Emeralda*."

## FULL REPORT.

### [FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, 5th February.

After months of waiting, and weeks that have failed to pass without calling out regiments of soldiers to repulse imaginary attacks of the natives, the long expected has happened and a fight has taken place between the Americans and Filipinos. At the present moment it is difficult to decide whether the clash was premeditated or accidental, but as soon as the firing commenced it became general and settled down into a steady fight all around the fortifications from Malate to Caloocan.

Just behind Santa Mesa, where several Englishmen live their residences, among them McLeod, Huggins, Botham, Paddy, Lloyd, Reid, Allison, and others, lies a village that has caused the Americans great annoyance. It is partly within and partly without the line of blockhouses and the natives have been taking advantage of its location to run the lines at night. Every time there has been trouble and two men were shot there some days ago but the matter quieted down.

### THE FIRST SHOT.

On Saturday night about half-past eight the Nebraska sentries on outpost duty noticed a number of natives running in and out of the lines and warned them that if they were found inside that they would be shot. The warning had no effect and the corporal of the guard took upon himself to challenge persons, and instructed his men to fire if no answer was given at the third call. In a few moments three natives approached the post and were called upon to halt, but they kept advancing. Once, twice more the command was given, and then a shot broke the stillness of the night, quickly followed by another. The foremost of the natives lay dead and the sullen had received a bullet through his hat from the gun of the dead man's comrade.

For half an hour things were comparatively quiet while the Americans quickly extended and reinforced the line of outposts all around the city. A general call to quarters was sounded, the city streets were patrolled, and reserves hurried out to the suburbs. Long before the trouble had commenced it was reported that a general engagement was on; people rushed from the theatre and circas and off the drives to their houses, which were quickly shut up, locked, and lights extinguished. Many took refuge in the walled city and hundreds of native families from the suburbs attempted to get into town but were kept outside. What went on in the insurgent lines will never be known, but suddenly a volley was fired from the big three and a half foot water pipe that crosses the fields back of Santa Mesa, from the water works to the city; like an echo it was answered by the American lines along the hill and in five minutes the engagement was continued along the line of breast works. Every few minutes the firing was punctuated by yells of "Viva Filipina," quickly answered by the cheers of the Americans. For one hour the fire was limited to rifles alone until the *Monadnock*, stationed off Malate fort, began throwing six and ten inch shells into the rebel lines; the havoc must have been awful, but Mauser bullets never ceased for an instant, some even finding their way out to the warship. Up at the north of the city the *Charleston* was dropping explosives into the works about Caloocan, but as the distance was much greater the effect was not so disastrous as at Malate. At Caloocan the natives had a big smooth bore gun mounted and trained on the Tondo district and occasionally a shell fell into the American lines. Following around from this point the 3rd U. S. Artillery, Montana, Minnesota (two companies), and Kansas infantry regiments were busy answering the steady fire that poured over the rice fields. No other aim could be taken than the rifle's flash and the mortality was necessarily small though the hospital corps was soon busy carrying in the wounded. Generals McArthur, Otis, Hale, and King were constantly along the line ascertaining for themselves the exact progress of the fight. At the Chinese cemetery, north of Manila, the fight was unusually bitter and from the point around the line were the South Dakota, Colorado, and Michigan regiments, the

last of which occupied about the centre point of the line. Then came the Idaho, Washington, California, 4th U.S. Cavalry, North Dakotas, 14th U.S. Infantry, and 6th U.S. Artillery, with two or three others stationed along the town and river front to Malate fort. On the river was the new Pasig gunboat with its Gatling and field guns. The Utah Battery was somewhat scattered as its guns were placed where they could do best work at Santa Mesa and the cemetery.

It is utterly impossible for one man to observe all that was going on in that long ten miles or more of entrenchments, so I confined my attention to Santa Mesa, Paco, and Pandakan, where the firing was the heaviest.

The engagement at Santa Mesa was so stubborn that Colonel Stottzenberg, of the Nebraska Infantry, sent in for reinforcements at 9.45 p.m. Up to midnight there was no lessening of fire, but about half-past twelve a general quiet settled down and only an occasional boom of the Springfield or pisises crack of the Musers through the canes told of vigilant sniping on both sides. At 2.30 a.m. it flared up again and threatened to become an attack aided this time by the moonlight, but in half an hour it quieted down. Word was sent out by the division commander to hold the lines until further orders or relieved. As the news was heard the regiments shouted for joy and the insurgents taking it for a charge signal answered with yells and volleys, never retreating an inch. This was about twenty minutes past four and in the bright light of the half moon the Utah guns opened fire from Santa Mesa and the Cemetery on the blockhouses. Over at Paco and Pandakan the insurgents had fortified themselves in the churches, stone houses, and a flank in the rice fields and were keeping the Americans moving under a lively fire, and at Malate the *Monadnock* was throwing in the great shells that must have killed scores. The first advance made was at Santa Mesa at daybreak, when two companies of the Nebraska regiment charged across the rice fields, covered by the two 3.2 in. guns of the Utah battery, and forced the insurgents back from the water pipe, which they had held all night. The position was almost untenable, but the natives held the field and thickest on the other side of the pipe and San Juan river for more than an hour under the heavy fire of the guns and encroaching riflemen. Every time a shell burst a line of white hats and feathered heads would leap in the air and howl "Viva, Viva Filipino!" and then settle down and pour volleys accompanied by arrows into the American lines. It was a wonderful exhibition of bravery, recklessness, perhaps fanaticism, but utterly useless against the overwhelming advantage of the enemy. Slowly, slowly they were forced back up the hill, leaving their dead, to the deposito or reservoir, where a short stand was made about the house of Col. Montenegro, and then it was turned into a rout, and they ran all through the fields and brush, firing whenever a chance was offered. The plucky Nebrascans were followed by the Colorados and backed up by the Tennessee regiment, which arrived from the walled city. The last named did not stop at the deposito but kept right on raking over the fields for some two miles further, until recalled. In the meantime the Paco, Pandakan, was seeing bloody work. As it became impossible to dislodge the natives from the church, and they fired on hospital wagons as well as soldiers, the place was set on fire and great columns of black smoke that covered half the city rose out of the beautiful old church; other houses were fired as the only means of driving out and preventing a return of the gritty defenders and at least a hundred natives were killed as they escaped. Over in the rice fields at the south side the Californians and Washingtons had gradually pushed the enemy back until a determined stand was made behind a low ridge of rice bank across a little ten foot mud creek. For nearly an hour shots were exchanged at less than eighty yards distance and as there was no more protection than the low dyke ridges the mortality was great. Along both firing lines the grass is burned off short and black and heaps of cartridge shells, shirts, blankets, knapsacks and ownerless guns tell of the heat of the contest. Finally about half past ten a.m. the line was broken and the natives made for the river across

the unprotected rice fields, offering an excellent target to the standing Americans. Both Paco and Pandakan were in flames before noon. At Santa Ana where there are many fine houses there was heavy resistance, but with the same result in the end. The houses of some of the foreigners have been burned. At Malate the natives were massed in great numbers and in their daring they crept up close to the fort that they had so often tried to take from the Spanish. Many of them came too close in to be hurt by the guns on the fort and then carried on a lively fight, but they were finally flanked and several captured by a charge of the North Dakota Co. G. and B.

Two companies (I & M) of the 4th U.S. Infantry tried a charge on the east of the fort to clear out some canes that were sheltering a large body of natives. By a clear flank movement Co. M. was put under cross fire and lost twelve men and Lieut. Mitchell before it could be recovered. From the top of the fort the big navy shells could be seen falling apparently in the midst of the insurgent lines and sometimes whole broadsides were fired, but without any apparent weakening of the enemy. It is impossible to estimate the loss, but in those miniature volcanos of dust and earth many a misguided, unfortunate native has given up his life for his "libertad." On the north side of the city but little advance has been made; the natives have been driven back and the blockhouses burned. Nothing more will be done until to-morrow unless natives return to the attack. The American lines have been extended about a mile in all directions from the blockhouses except at Malate and the cemetery on the north-east.

At this writing it is impossible to estimate the dead and wounded, but a fair calculation is eight American officers killed and eighty men wounded, and 300-400 insurgents killed and wounded.

Aguinaldo's men have shown that they can fight and have the grit to stand punishment and their ability as enemies has gone up several points in the American soldiers' estimation. Tonight the city is still under the closest military surveillance and no natives or foreigners are allowed about the streets unless they have passes. Along the outposts quiet reigns but for the occasional shots of distant snipers.

The Americans have driven the natives from the immediate vicinity of Manila; being strongly located themselves they have driven the natives from comparatively strong positions but the advantage in almost all places lay with the victors. The ball has been opened and it is not likely that explanations will settle the difficulty, but it is not again that the Americans will be so conveniently placed.

Tondo, 6th February, 11 a.m.

General McArthur's division on the north of the city, composed of the 3rd U.S.A., Montana, Kansas, Pennsylvania, and a portion of the Minnesota regiment, are advancing on Caloocan and if successful will continue as rapidly as possible to Malolos.

The railroad is being repaired by the troops preparatory to running cars. If no steam can be had the soldiers will work the flat cars.

#### A FILIPINO ACCOUNT OF THE HOSTILITIES AT MANILA.

The following statement, the signature of which means in English "Friend of the Country," has been handed to us for publication, and on the principle of giving a fair hearing to all parties we accord it space, but something much stronger than an *ex parte* statement will be required to induce the public to credit the allegations made against the Americans, especially that contained in the last paragraph but one to the effect that at Paco the American soldiers called the people out of their houses and shot them like dogs regardless of sex.—

Americans, and especially the semi official American *Manila Times*, will naturally insist upon it, that the Filipinos were the aggressors, but the testimony of other witnesses living near the scene of action is more reliable than any published statements so far, and they are positive in asserting the aggression came from the American side. Unfortunately for the Americans their anterior acts all point to the conclusion that the outbreak of hostilities was deliberately planned by them, and for political

purposes. Why was the cable seized and no political news, except what the Americans chose to send through, allowed to be sent by others just nine days before the Senatorial vote was to be taken? Was it not because the Jingo party, whose incarnation is Otis, received advice from Washington that the treaty of peace would be thrown out by two votes, unless some aggressive act of the Filipinos should cause the wavering senators to alienate their sympathies from the Philippine cause and refuse to concede the independence promised by the official American representatives? By provoking hostilities on the eve of voting, with control of the cable to prevent the Filipinos contradicting the statements they might choose to wire, they succeeded in gaining their point.

It is well known that General Aguinaldo had given most stringent orders to all his commanders on no account to resort to hostilities unless they were actually compelled by some provocative or offensive act of the Americans. General Otis knew this very well, hence the orders to the Santa Mesa outpost and all the other outposts, to commence firing at a given moment. Will any sane person who knows the topography of the country believe that a simultaneous attack could be commenced in a line from Balie-Balie on the north to Pasay on the South East—a distance of at least 10 miles—except on the face of some general order to this effect?

Was it likely, in view of General Aguinaldo's stringent orders—and everybody who knows anything about the Filipinos is fully aware how implicitly he is obeyed, far more so than American soldiers obey their commanders—that disputes would simultaneously be provoked in every outpost?

Why were the American men-of-war placed at the various points of vantage along the coast, away from the rest of the fleet, if not to take part in this premeditated attack?

If as stated by the *Manila Times* a premeditated attack had been planned by the Filipinos, does the paper think they, with their splendid organization, would have been foolish enough not to have begun in the Tondo district simultaneously, and not more than two hours later?

No mention is made of the Filipino officers in the theatre on Saturday night, who were arrested by the American authorities just before the action took place! If such serious events were to take place immediately, as the Americans wish the public to believe, would these officers have been there?

The Americans admit that General Aguinaldo did not precipitate this rising, but they are very much mistaken in supposing he cannot control his followers. Future events will dispel these illusions. Well knowing this, it was the Americans who took the mean advantage. Their commissioners signed a document at the last meeting of the Mixed Commission—which anyone can now see was only a ruse to gain time—in which they guaranteed no hostilities would commence from their side. This document also set forth certain terms under which the United States would recognise the Philippine Republic, and was to be discussed by General Aguinaldo and his Cabinet and read before Congress in Mololos. It was notorious that better relations existed between Filipinos and Americans up to the time of the out-break, so much so that the Filipinos were resting after the late excitement, many having returned to their habitual occupations, and this circumstance was the cause of so many officers being at the theatre, and other prominent members of the Filipino Government being in Manila. The wholesale arrests by the Americans since were for the object of capturing the latter, but the birds have flown, including one of General Aguinaldo's private secretaries, who managed to pass the American lines even on Sunday afternoon, and is safe in Mololos, or rather San Fernando, where the capital has been transferred to, not on account of late events, but long since decided upon. In fact the Ministry of War has been there some little time.

Notwithstanding the disadvantage at which the Filipinos were taken, they gave a very good account of themselves, their loss in troops being in no way superior to the Americans'. The fearful mortality took place amongst civilians, principally women and children, in the towns of Parañaque and Malabon, and the suburbs of

February 18, 1899.

Maytubig, Paco, and Santa Ana, from the bombardment of the men-of-war. The Americans may put what construction they like upon this, but the verdict of history will qualify the bombardment of defenceless towns such as these without warning as a monstrous outrage on civilization.

Parañaque is a fishing village on the coast, and took no part in the fight; neither did the important town of Malabon, distant about six miles from the nearest American outpost. Malabon is the centre of the sugar drying industry, 7 miles to the north of Manila. It contains a large population inhabiting nipa (palm leaf) houses principally, although there are many substantial buildings, including the Filipino General Hospital, which offers the best target from the seaside, the Luzon Sugar Refinery (English property), some large Cigar factories, and a seaside residence of Dominican monks where in days gone by they were accustomed to celebrate their revels free from inquisitive observation. Over one hundred Chinamen were killed here. It is connected with Manila by a steam tramway, which, however, has not been running for some time.

Caloocan, which has since been bombarded, is midway between Malabon and Manila and the headquarters of the Railway Company, where all the repairing shops, engine sheds, etc., are situated, but the Filipinos no doubt will have removed all the rolling stock to San Fernando, about 40 miles from Manila in the centre of the Pampanga province, not far from the central range of Luzon, where the Americans will find their work of conquest rather more difficult than under the range of the guns of their fleet.

I fail to see the logic in shelling Caloocan because "Tondo was attacked so vigorously." Caloocan is four miles from Tondo with open country intervening. A lame excuse is better than none at all for wanton destruction. This will read very nicely outside the Philippines for those who have no knowledge of the country and will doubtless mislead many in America. After knowing Tondo for 17 years and living there for several, I have yet to find out where "the dark byways" are.

Rather a tall order capturing the man who attacked General King in Paco. The writer has evidently had experience of how heads are chopped off in China, after a missionary murder for instance, and goes one better. This beats the Spaniards.

Is he not mistaking Igorrotes for Actas?—a vast difference!

Some discrepancy arises in amount of American losses. Reuter gives it at 20 killed 125 wounded, *Manila Times* at 40 killed 100 wounded. "Britisher" at 200 killed and wounded, "An American" at 200 killed and wounded, "A Filipino" at 500 killed and wounded; anything between the two latter is nearer the mark. A contemporary said a few days ago it is not civilized warfare cutting the water supply; yet here is an American expressing his surprise that the Filipinos did not do so, especially as it was such an easy matter. Who shall be the judge? I trust said contemporary will be true to his colours, and acknowledge the Filipinos are a "little bit" civilized, although he may not do them the justice to acknowledge they are much more civilized than some of the "Wild Westers" in Manila.

Information from Manila papers and other sources must be taken very guardedly; those in a position to know are not free agents, and we all know the sympathies of Americans for "yellow journalism," which some local papers seem to be fond of imitating.

The *Manila Times* states that "Paco Church was held by a number of rebel (what rebels forsooth?) sharpshooters, who kept their positions bravely till the Americans shelled them out." The paper carefully omits to say Paco was within the American lines, about one mile from the Puente de Damas between Paco and Santa Ana, the division between American and Filipino lines. The Filipinos from Santa Ana drove the Americans back at this point very bravely, but as the Church dome offers such a splendid target from the Bay, the fleet bombardment, against which the Filipinos could not possibly stand, compelled them to retire, and not the American soldiers. Paco has many fine houses, and a favourite residence of the

British community, which have doubtless been destroyed. In Paco the returning American soldiers called the people out of their houses and shot them like dogs, regardless of sex, and then set fire to every house they came across. Such warfare may be consonant with the people who committed the outrages against the negroes in Carolina in November last, and if they consider such the work of "heroes" they are quite welcome to their opinions. The civilized world will form other conclusions.

American behaviour and provocations against Filipinos in Manila will be referred to subsequently. When fully known the outside public will marvel at the patience and long suffering of the Filipinos.

#### KAIBIGAN NANG BAYAN.

#### AN INCIDENT OF THE FIRING AT MANILA.

##### DEATH OF DR. YOUNG, OF THE UTAH BATTERY.

##### SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST THE INSURGENTS.

The *American* of the 8th instant has the following:

"Sorrow reigns supreme among the rank and file of the Utah Light Battery over the horrible fate and end that came of Dr. Harry Young, their popular surgeon, at the hands of the Insurgents. After capturing him they stripped him of his clothes and cut him and his horse in a frightful manner.

"Dr. Harry Young, who was a cousin of Major Young, the Battery commander, was last seen alive at ten o'clock on Tuesday morning, and was found as described later in the afternoon when the advance was made on the pumping station. It is supposed that he went to go from one post of the battery to another, which was stationed at the reservoir, and as little firing was going on he got beyond the lines, fell into the hands of the Insurgents, who massacred him in such an inhuman manner.

"Upon the discovery being made, several of the different regiments felt loth to do anything for the wounded Insurgents. He was buried yesterday, but his body will be sent to the United States."

#### THE FILIPINO REPRESENTATIVES IN AMERICA.

We understand that the Filipino representatives have left Washington in consequence of their having formed the opinion that the Government were evincing a disposition to arrest them. One of them saw President McKinley quite recently, and he alleges that he got from him a declaration that the object of the United States Government was not to convert the Philippines into a perpetual American colony, but merely to take charge of them for a time with the object of ultimately declaring a Filipino Republic. This declaration, however, did not satisfy the Filipinos and their supporters, who called for an immediate declaration of independence. The news of the fighting at Manila has perturbed them considerably, and they are loud in their denunciations of General Otis, whom they hold responsible for the collision.

#### ILOILO TAKEN.

##### THE CONSULATES BURNED. [SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]

MANILA, 14th February.

Iloilo was taken on Saturday afternoon. The Insurgents had threatened to destroy the town by fire, but they burned little more than the English, German, and American Consulates. The Banks were saved.

The Petrel and Boston began the bombardment at nine o'clock in the morning. The Insurgents retired to Jaro. The American troops landed and a slight engagement took place. There were no casualties on the American side.

The return of the number of cases of communicable disease notified as occurring during last week shows that there was one case of puerperal fever and two of smallpox, of which one was on H.M.S. *Undaunted*.

#### HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On the 13th Feb. a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government offices, there being present:

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR, Sir Henry BLAKE, G.C.M.G.

HON. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

HON. H. E. FOOLOCK (Acting Attorney-General).

HON. R. MURRAY RUMSEY (Harbour Master).

[HON. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police).]

HON. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

HON. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works).

HON. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

HON. DR. HO KAI.

HON. E. R. BELILIOS, C.M.G.

HON. J. J. BELL-IRVING.

HON. WEI A YIK.

MR. J. G. T. BUCKLE (Clerk of Councils).

##### MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted as a correct record.

##### PAPERS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report on Queen's College by the examiners appointed by the Government for 1899.

##### FLUSHING DRAINS AND WATERING ROADS.

##### —REFUSAL OF INSTRUCTORS.

THE HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD gave notice of the following questions:—(1) "Are the Government taking steps to provide for the flushing of the drains and sewers and the watering of the roads throughout the city by the construction of tanks along the upper levels either for fresh or salt water, and if the latter for the construction of the necessary pumping stations?"

(2) "Are the Government taking any steps to introduce destructors for the disposal of the city refuse?"

##### A VALUABLE SITE LYING FALLOW.

HON. E. R. BELILIOS laid on the table notice of the following questions:—

(1) "The plot of land lying between Arbutnott and Hollywood Roads to the N.E. of Victoria Gaol which has been resumed and cleared of the houses formerly standing thereon, and which has for about 12 months been lying fallow and unproductive, being a valuable site, will the Government state whether any plan for utilising it was considered before the rent-earning dwelling houses were demolished?"

(2) "If plans for utilising the ground had not been considered before the destruction of the property standing on this site, will the Government state whether or not such plans are under consideration now?"

(3) "If plans and specifications for building on the site are ready in the hands of the Public Works Department, will the Government be good enough to state when it is probable that such buildings will be ready for occupation by the Government servants or others for whom they may have been designed, and at what date the colony may expect to be relieved from payment of rents for the accommodation of such Government officers?"

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY—In reply to the questions of the honourable member I beg to answer as follows: The reply to the first question is "Yes;" the reply to the second is, "The plans have already been considered;" and the reply to the third is, "Probably before the end of this year."

##### THE KOWLOON EXTENSION.

THE HON. E. R. BELILIOS—At the next meeting of the Council I propose to ask a few questions on the subject matter of the newly-acquired territory across the harbour and situated to the north of British Kowloon.

##### SALES OF LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORY.

THE HON. C. P. CHATER—I beg to ask the following question: Will the Government state whether any steps have been taken to prevent sales of land in the Kowloon extension since the signing of the convention?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to reply as follows to the question of the honourable member: At the instance of this Government the Chinese Government issued notices warning

the inhabitants of the Kowloon extension that sales of land made after the signing of the convention on the 9th June last must be at their own risk and would not as a matter of course be recognised by the Government of Great Britain.

#### THE LAWS RELATING TO MERCHANT SHIPPING, ETC.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I rise to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to Merchant Shipping, the duties of the Harbour-Master, the control and management of the waters of the colony, and the regulation of vessels navigating the same. Inasmuch as I propose to move presently that this Bill be referred to the Standing Law Committee, I do not think I need now detain members with many observations upon the Bill itself, because I am in hopes that while the Law Committee is engaged in going through this Bill clause by clause, every honourable member of this Council, whether a member of the Law Committee or otherwise, will carefully go through the provisions of this Bill for himself, and will consider the amendments in the law introduced by this Bill which are set out in the objects and reasons at the foot of the Bill. In addition to calling the attention of honourable members to these objects and reasons I would also draw the attention of honourable members to the first few pages which are published at the head of this Bill, which will show honourable members in what respects the present Bill corresponds with the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance No. 26 of 1891, and in what respects the present Bill embodies the provisions of the Imperial Merchant Shipping Act, 1894. I trust, as I have said, that honourable members of this Council will carefully consider the provisions of this Bill, and that if any point occurs to them or is suggested to them they will not hesitate to draw my attention, as chairman of the Law Committee, to that point. I understand that in accordance with your Excellency's direction given at the last meeting of the Council this Bill has been referred to the Chamber of Commerce, and perhaps I may ask the honourable member for the Chamber of Commerce if he would be so good as to endeavour to obtain the opinion of his constituents upon this Bill at as early a date as possible. (The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD: Certainly.) I have no desire to rush this Bill through the Council in any way, but as the Hon. Mr. Goodman will be back in the colony about this time next month of course I am anxious, if possible, to see this Bill carried through committee at all events before his return. I think it would be a great pity if we did not get the Bill through Committee before Mr. Goodman returned, as, if we did not succeed in doing so, it would cause a good deal of delay. With these remarks, sir, I beg to move the second reading of this Bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

The Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—Would it not facilitate matters and save a lot of labour and time if we could take the views of the Chamber of Commerce before the Bill is considered by the Law Committee. It has been mentioned to me to-day that it would facilitate matters if the Chamber of Commerce were provided with a list of the clauses it is proposed to change and the new ones it is proposed to substitute. It would enable them to discern what changes are proposed.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—With your Excellency's permission I should like to say a few words with regard to what has just fallen from the honourable member. It would be absolutely necessary that the Law Committee should consider this Bill and go through it clause by clause, especially in reference to the amendments in the law proposed by this Bill. I believe I can rely upon the honourable member who represents the Chamber of Commerce to obtain for us at an early date the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce upon this Bill. This being a Bill which with schedules occupies some 60 pages it must necessarily take the Law Committee a long time to consider it clause by clause. When we receive a report from the Chamber of Commerce of course it will be our duty to consider the suggestions made, but in view of the fact that Mr. Goodman is so soon returning to the colony

I should not like in any way to postpone the consideration of the Bill by the Law Committee. As I stated before, any suggestions sent in by the Chamber of Commerce will be carefully considered by the Law Committee.

His EXCELLENCY—Do you propose to move it be referred to the Law Committee now?

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Yes. I am in hopes that the honourable member for the Chamber of Commerce will succeed in the course of the next fortnight in obtaining the opinions of the Chamber of Commerce upon this Bill.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—if possible.

His EXCELLENCY—It is, I think, very important that the views of the commercial community should be obtained upon this Bill during its consideration by the Law Committee, and if it were possible to have these observations of the Chamber of Commerce before the Law Committee considered the Bill clause by clause I think it would be very advisable, and I might suggest, the Council having accepted the second reading of the Bill, the Law Committee might possibly see their way to deferring its consideration until they receive the suggestions of the Chamber of Commerce. Otherwise the Law Committee having considered the Bill, we must assume very carefully, and come to certain decisions, would have to consider the observations of the commercial community on a point upon which they had already decided. I think it would be very advisable that they should have the views of the commercial community before they approached the consideration of each of these various sections. I suggest that to the Law Committee, and I think honourable members will see their way to accept the second reading and then the Attorney-General and the Law Committee can settle that matter.

The Bill passed the second reading.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the Bill was referred to the Standing Law Committee.

#### CRIMINAL PROCEDURE IN THE SUPREME COURT.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to Criminal Procedure in the Supreme Court. As I propose to move that this Bill be referred to the Standing Law Committee I do not think I need trouble members with any observations upon it. Honourable members will see that there is a full statement of the objects and reasons attached at the head of the Bill, and I may say, sir, that in drafting this Bill the Chief Justice has afforded a very great deal of assistance, and we have had the benefit of his experience in drafting the Bill. I beg, sir, to move the second reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

On the motion of the ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the Bill was referred to the Standing Law Committee.

#### THE LAW RELATING TO PRISONS.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved and the COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded the third reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend and consolidate the law relating to prisons.

His EXCELLENCY—I do not think it is advisable to pass the third reading of the Bill until it has been reprinted. Having gone through the Bill carefully and made certain amendments I do not think it ought to pass the third reading until the Council have before them the Bill exactly as it is to stand. Otherwise mistakes may creep in. Therefore I would ask the Attorney-General to withdraw the proposition as to the third reading, and in the meantime the Clerk had better have the Bill reprinted.

This suggestion was acted upon, the motion for the third reading being withdrawn.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The Council adjourned until Monday, Feb. 27th.

The maximum temperature last month was 72.6, on the 12th, and the minimum 43.6, on the 3rd, the mean for the month being 59. The rainfall amounted to 0.185 inch.

#### HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, the 7th February, 1899.—Present, Messrs. R. M. Gray (Chairman), A. Haupt, J. J. Bell Irving, T. Jackson, A. McConachie, H. A. Ritchie, N. A. Siebs, T. H. Whitehead, and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary).

#### MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting (held 10th January) were read and confirmed.

#### ABSENT MEMBER.

Read letter from Mr. W. Poate expressing regret at being unable to attend owing to his presence being required on a jury sitting that morning.

#### ELECTION OF NEW MEMBER OF CHAMBER.

Messrs. Vander Stegen & Co, had been elected to membership of the Chamber since last meeting.

#### THE FUTURE FISCAL POLICY IN THE PHILIPPINES.

The Secretary reported that the decision to address the Foreign Office on this subject had not been carried out so far, in consequence of an agreement subsequently to await receipt of a letter from the Manila Chamber, which body intended to lay the question before the British Government, duly supported by statistics.

The opinion was expressed that, in consequence of the outbreak of hostilities at Manila, some time might have to elapse before further steps could be taken, but meantime it was resolved to write to the Singapore Chamber and state the circumstances which had led to the delay in replying to their letter.

#### THE REDUCTION OF THE PERIODS OF CROWN LEASES.

Read letter from the Government, dated the 18th January, with reference to the Chamber's letter of the 10th October last on the above subject, announcing that the Secretary of State adheres to his decision that Crown Leases shall in future be reduced from 999 years to 75 or at the most 99 years, but that terms will be embodied in future leases providing for the renewal thereof on such an advance in Crown Rent as is justified by the then value of the land for a further similar period.

This decision was viewed with regret as a mistake, but accepted as final so far as the Chamber's protest is concerned.

#### THE BANK OF CHINA, JAPAN AND THE STRAITS (IN LIQ.) v. CERTAIN CHINESE SHAREHOLDERS.

Read letter from H. E. Sir Claude Macdonald, in reply to Chamber's letter of the 31st December, bespeaking his assistance in obtaining a reversal of the recent decision of the Shanghai Taotai in the above case.

The assurance given by the British Minister was regarded with satisfaction.

#### (correspondence.)

#### FISCAL POLICY IN THE PHILIPPINES.

8th February, 1899.

Dear Sir.—I beg leave to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 13th December last, inquiring whether, in view of the annexation of the Philippines by the United States of America, this Chamber proposes making any representations in favour of the fiscal policy for those islands under the new régime being, as far as practicable, in the direction of Free Trade.

I am instructed to express regret for the delay in replying, and to explain that it has arisen owing to communications with a representative of the Manila Chamber of Commerce, which body proposes to address the Foreign Office on the question, statistics of the trade, and forwarding copies of despatch to this Chamber and to Singapore with requests for support and co-operation.

It is to be feared, however, that the hostilities just commenced with the natives at Manila will cause some further delay in the proposed action of the Manila Chamber.

The Committee of this Chamber are quite in sympathy with your Chamber on the question, and are prepared to support the Manila Chamber in their efforts to place the matter strongly

[February 18, 1899.]

before the Foreign Office.—I am, dear Sir,  
Yours faithfully,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,  
Secretary.

Alex. J. Gunn, Esq., Secretary, Singapore  
Chamber of Commerce.

**REDUCTION OF THE PERIODS OF  
CROWN LEASES.**

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Hongkong, 18th January.

Sir—With reference to my letter No. 1879 of the 10th October last, I am directed to inform you that after due consideration of the views expressed by you on the subject, the Secretary of State for the Colonies adheres to his decision that Leases shall in future be reduced from 999 years to 75 years or at the longest 99 years.

Terms will be embodied in future leases that leases will be renewed to the original lessee or the assignee in possession at the time of the expiry of the lease upon such an advance in Crown rent as is justified by the then value of land and without fine for a further period of 75 or 99 years, and that in the event of the land being resumed by the Government for public purposes compensation will be given.—I have the honour to be, etc.,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,  
Acting Colonial Secretary.  
The Secretary Chamber of Commerce.

**THE BANK OF CHINA, JAPAN, AND THE  
STRAITS CASE.**

Peking, 31st December, 1898.

Sir—I am in receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, with reference to the judgment, recently given by the Shanghai Taotai in the case of the Bank of China, Japan, and the Straits Limited versus certain Chinese shareholders, and beg to inform you that I am in communication with the Tsungli Yamen and the Shanghai authorities on this question.—I am, Sir. Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) CLAUDE M. MACDONALD.  
R. M. Grey, Esq., Chairman, Hongkong General  
Chamber of Commerce.

**HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.**

On the 16th February a meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held under the Chairmanship of the President (Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer), there being also present the Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Mr. E. Osborne, and Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health and Acting Secretary).

**THE PLAGUE AT CALCUTTA.**

Dr. CLARK read a telegram dated Feb. 13th which said: "Another case of plague has occurred in Calcutta."

**THE PLAGUE AT FORMOSA.**

Dr. CLARK presented a report as to the outbreak of bubonic plague at Tainan, Formosa, showing that from Jan. 20th to Feb. 4th there were 55 cases and 36 deaths.

The PRESIDENT—There is no direct communication between Tainan and Hongkong?

Dr. CLARK—No.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by the Hon. R. D. OEMSBY, it was decided to ask the Government to enquire how many cases of plague have occurred at Tainan.

**MORTALITY RETURNS.**

The mortality returns for the colony of Hongkong for the week ended Feb. 4th show a death rate of 14·6 against 17·0 the previous week and 21·4 for the corresponding week last year. The rate for the following week was 16·6 against 23·0 for the corresponding week last year.

The return for Macao for the week ended Jan. 29th shows 42 deaths.

This was all the business.

With the China New Year many changes, we understand, are taking place amongst the mandarins at Canton, at least sixteen vacating their present appointments on transfer or retirement. The Namhoi Magistrate retires and is to be succeeded by Yeong Chan-wing, and the Punyu Magistrate is to be transferred to Swatow, his successor at Canton being Lao Ping-fui.

**PRINCE AND PRINCESS HENRY  
OF PRUSSIA.**

**THEY LEAVE HONGKONG FOR THE NORTH.**  
T.R.H. Prince and Princess Henry of Prussia left Hongkong on the 15th February in the *Deutschland*. On their arrival at Amoy they will be joined by the *Gefion*, which left Hongkong on Tuesday. After a stay at Shanghai they will proceed to Kiaochau. The *Gefion* will remain at Kiaochau as receiving ship. The Princess will return home by the *Prinz Heinrich*, which is due to leave Hongkong for Europe on the 26th of April.

**Mrs. J. J. FRANCIS, Q.C., ON SPHERES  
OF INFLUENCE AND THE  
OPEN DOOR.**

On the 13th February Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., gave an address on "Spheres of Influence and the Open Door," in the Chamber of Commerce Room at the City Hall, under the auspices of the Odd Volumes Society. There was a very large audience, the room being much too small to comfortably accommodate all who attended. Amongst those present were H.E. Sir Henry Blake and Sir John Carrington. Mr. T. Jackson occupied the chair and briefly introduced the lecturer.

Mr. FRANCIS in his opening remarks said the *Daily Press* of that morning had furnished him with an introduction. That paper emphasised the danger of using imperfectly understood catch-phrases, as it termed "spheres of influence" and the "open door," by reference to an article in the *Times* of the 9th January. He did not think the illustration applied; the *Times*, he thought, had not misused the phrases, though it might be mistaken in its statement of the circumstances as they existed at Shanghai. But undoubtedly the phrases were frequently misunderstood and misapplied, and as the subject matter in respect of which they were used and misunderstood and misapplied—our trade with China and England's position in China—was of the utmost importance to us and any mistake might have dangerous consequences, it was as well to try and clear up the misunderstandings and avoid the mistakes. This was the object of his lecture. He did not propose to tell them, as the *Daily Press* said was his object, all about spheres of influence and the open door. The subject was much too wide. Neither could he narrowly define the terms; they were not capable as yet of accurate definition. They had only recently come into use, the open door quite recently and only in connection with China, spheres of influence of less recent date and in connection with Africa. They were of such recent date that no authority on international law had yet discussed or defined them. The things the phrases substantially represented had always more or less existed, but the phrases themselves were new and applied to new circumstances. He proposed to deal first with the order of the two, spheres of influence. He then proceeded to analyse the idea according to the dictionary meaning of the words, "sphere" being a circle, an area large or small, a field of action, and one of the meanings of "influence" according to a recent authority, being controlling or directing power not based upon authority. He explained the meaning of the phrase as applied to the conditions as they existed in Africa, namely, that two Powers, say England and France, having established themselves at neighbouring points on the coast, looked naturally to extending their jurisdiction to the hinterland, and in order to avoid collisions and for their mutual convenience they agreed that each should recognise certain areas as under the influence of the other, that was, that each Power in its own sphere should be free to do what it liked to the exclusion of all interference on the part of the other. The phrase "sphere of influence" could not be applied to territories already in our possession or under our protection, but only to territories which were looked upon as spheres of future action and from which it was intended to exclude the influence of other Powers. This was illustrated by a reference to the case of Afghanistan, which was an independent kingdom, and recognised as such, but which had been twice if not thrice invaded by Eng-

land to prevent its falling under Russian influence. The lecturer then passed on to consider the meaning of the phrase "open door," which he said was entirely commercial, as the phrase "sphere of influence" was wholly political. It had its origin in the phrase "the opening" of China, with which all were familiar. Briefly referring to the history of foreign intercourse with China and Japan, he said the opening of China was almost exclusively the work of England, with some little assistance from France, but England had never sought to secure any exclusive advantages in China, but on the contrary had rendered all the assistance she could to other Powers in making their treaties, and these were in the main modelled on the treaties with England. All the advantages secured by England ensured to the benefit of others and under the favoured nation clause were shared in by all alike. But recently China had granted exclusive privileges to certain Powers in breach of her treaty engagements. Up to the time of the China-Japan war in 1894 England might have enforced the policy of the open door in China, no by using threats at Peking, which was of no use, but by warning other Powers, as in a recent case elsewhere, that any encroachment would be regarded as an unfriendly act. Now he feared it was too late, and that spheres of influence were being created which would be transformed into spheres of action and authority, the leases that had been acquired being converted into cessions of the leased territory. England therefore had to consider how her interests could best be conserved. It had been suggested to him only the previous day that there was no necessary contradiction between spheres of influence and the open door. In England the door was open to all, and foreigners could enter and buy land, open mines, or engage in any form of industry. It might be the Powers that acquired territory in China would keep the door open as it was kept open in England, but he very much doubted it. He also expressed the opinion that the creation of spheres of influence presaged the disruption of the empire.

The lecture was listened to with the keenest interest by the large audience.

Mr. GRANVILLE SHARP proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Francis.

The CHAIRMAN, in supporting the motion, said he believed that under Lord Salisbury the foreign policy of England had been conducted on principles of right and justice and that when we were considering our interests in the Far East we must remember that the home Government had a very wide horizon to scan. He thought that every one who had heard Mr. Francis's lecture would feel that he was much better informed on the subject than before.

Mr. FRANCIS acknowledged the vote, and proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was heartily accorded, and the meeting terminated.

**A FUTURE GERMAN TRADE  
ASIANIC KAHLWA.**

**[CONTRIBUTED.]**

Few of us realized when Germany occupied Kiaochau, in Shantung, that she was laying the foundation of a great Asiatic colony which would stretch from the Mediterranean to the Yellow Sea. Before proceeding with our main topic, the Trans-Asiatic railway running in a temperate zone, it will perhaps be as well to look to the events which led up to the final seizure of Kiaochau.

Germany had for some time been looking round for a suitable place in China where she could locate a combined naval and trading base and doubtless her first intention was to negotiate with the Chinese Government in a friendly way for the cession of a port suited to her wants. The locality her agents first aspired to was Mirs Bay, thinking doubtless to draw away some of the German merchants who made the colony of Hongkong their headquarters to changing it for the new German colony to be established in the neighbourhood. Certainly Mirs Bay was an admirable place for locating such a port as far as depth of water, shelter and facilities of approach and departure

were concerned, for it could hardly in these respects be equalled by any other harbour in the world. There were, however, other objections to its final selection, amongst the most important of which was the strong objection of the British to an opposition port at their doors; a gentle and judicious feeling of the British public having elicited that fact, also the fact that German merchants in Hongkong had too much liberty and freedom to readily leave that colony for one run on stricter lines.

Mirs Bay proving undesirable Amoy was next thought of, but the outcry raised at the thought of a treaty port being annexed by Germany led to the altering of the programme again, and Quemoy was almost selected, probably for somewhat similar reasons which led to the selection of Mirs Bay in the first instance, neighbourhood of a flourishing port where German merchants were already in considerable number. Quemoy proved unsatisfactory as regards shelter, both from bad weather and attack by a hostile fleet, so it in turn was given up. A suitable anchorage was now sought for near the mouth of the West River, and Lappa and neighbourhood received considerable attention, but here, again, nature was against them, for no suitable anchorage for large vessels could be found. Once more the Germans returned to the Fukien Province and this time Sansah Bay, half way between the treaty ports of Foochow and Wenchow, was pitched upon. Sansah was also not quite suited to requirements, being somewhat open and exposed. At this time the Chino-Japanese War had been concluded more than a year and Germany had had ample proof that so far from receiving any benefit from her interposition against the Japanese annexation of Lioutung she was being slighted by the Chinese Government the more she sought to gain their favour, and her rivals Russia and France were getting all they asked, by the simple expedient of coercing the feeble powers who controlled the government of the Celestial Empire.

In November, 1897, a number of the leading British papers prematurely published the negotiations being carried on by the British Government for the extension of the colony of Hongkong by the cession of the Kowloon Hinterland, including all the waters of Mirs Bay and Deep Bay.

This was more than Germany could stand and she promptly made the killing of two German missionaries in Shantung, and the insults offered to her Minister, the plea for the seizure of Kiaochao and a large area of the surrounding country.

The German seizure was quickly followed by the Russian annexation of Port Arthur and Taliewan and a general Russian advance into Manchuria, the French seizure of Kwanchauwan, in Kwangtung, and the British occupation of Weihaiwei.

The above moves fairly inaugurated the division of the Chinese Empire between the four Great Powers named, which, in spite of any foolish attempt to prop up that crumbling and effete State, must now continue till the whole has been absorbed by one or the other of them.

Having thus briefly dealt with the circumstances leading up to the seizure of Kiaochao and the almost contemporaneous occupations of Manchuria, Kwanchauwan, and Weihaiwei, we may turn to what must follow if Germany does not fail to avail herself of the destiny which is so clearly marked out for her. She has sought vainly for years to keep the tide of German emigration under the German flag, for annually many thousands of her sons went to swell the population of the United States and the British Colonies, all of them being lost to the Fatherland; now, however, a chapter of accidents has pointed out to her a future German colony extending right across a continent; a colony as it were at her door and one possessed of a climate suited to a white population, being subject neither to the torrid heat of India or Africa nor to the arctic cold of Siberia. Russia has at great cost and sacrifice built the longest railway in the world, through an uninhabited wilderness subject to an arctic winter of from six to eight months' duration annually, to open up a trade between the Pacific and her European possessions.

Will Germany fail to open up railway communication with her new colony in Shantung when that railway will pass, during the greater

part of its course, through temperate regions rich in mineral, agricultural, and pastoral wealth and well, if not densely, populated? Such a railway passes through a region possessed of the greatest coal and iron-ore field in the world, which would of itself guarantee the success of the railway as a financial undertaking. It would, moreover, be one which in the course of thousands of miles should meet with no engineering difficulties on the extensive plains it would traverse, a veritable paradise for railway construction as regards cheapness to build.

If Germany really contemplates rising to the opportunity of uniting her Far Eastern colony by rail with Europe the first step will be the construction of a telegraph line, in the same way that a British line of telegraph from South to North Africa is preparing the way for the railway which is to follow. It was only recently mooted in the German press that a telegraph cable uniting their colony in Shantung with the Fatherland had become a necessity. The local press pointed out that a sea cable was impossible, for reasons which need not, here, be repeated. The same reasons do not apply to a land line from the Syrian Coast, in the Mediterranean, and an ocean cable uniting it with the head of the Adriatic Sea; or a land line, via Austria and Turkey, from Germany to Kiaochao might become an accomplished fact in less than two years. It certainly would be far less costly than the sea cable both as to first outlay and upkeep. The financing both of the telegraph line and the railway should easily be accomplished as both would certainly prove at once remunerative. Germany's best and quickest way to get both constructed would be to guarantee a four per cent dividend on the outlay and stipulate that 50 per cent of the net surplus profits, over and above the four per cent, guaranteed, should accrue to her. She might have for a few years to pay out a few thousands of pounds but in the long run she would reap a profit from the speculation apart from the benefits which would be derived by German interests generally. It undoubtedly would prove less expensive than making large additions to her navy. The line of route for such a railway would be, starting from the Mediterranean end, some point on the Syrian Coast (near Antioch) to Antioch, Antioch to Aleppo, Aleppo to Baghdad, Baghdad to Ispahan (or Baghdad to Teheran), from either Ispahan or Teheran, as the case may be, to Meshed, from Meshed to Balkh (in Northern Afghanistan), Balkh to Faizabad, Faizabad to Yarkand (or to Kashgar), from Yarkand or from Kashgar to Lobnor, Lobnor to Suchou (near the Western extremity of the Great Wall), Suchou to the Northernmost bend of the Yellow River, from the Yellow River to Kalgan and, finally, Kalgan to Peking, where it would meet the railway system connecting Peking with Kiaochao.

#### SCHOOL AND ORPHANAGE FOR GIRLS.

**PUBLIC MEETING IN ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE.**  
A public meeting was held in St. Paul's College on Thursday 19th Feb. for the purpose of considering a proposal to establish in Hongkong a boarding and day school for Eurasian and other girls. The Bishop of Victoria presided, and there were also present the Rev. E. F. Cobbold, Sir John Carrington, Mr. May Dr. Wright, Mr. G. Piercy, Mr. Ho : ung, and about 20 ladies.

The BISHOP said that in June last when he was at home a lady wrote to him pointing out the necessity of starting some kind of home for girls—especially Eurasian girls—in Hongkong. It was pointed out that there were large numbers of Eurasian girls who to a great extent were uncared for—that whilst the boys were cared for in the Diocesan Home certainly the Church of England had no school for the Eurasian girls in this place. At the time he could not get himself to do anything. He merely said he would see what he could do when he got back. When he came here the question was raised at once, and so he invited a certain number of ladies and gentlemen to meet in that house to act as a sort of committee to see whether anything could be done. That committee met several times, and

they had asked two members of that committee—Mr. Cobbold and Miss Johnstone, who were experienced, in these matters—to draw up a report. That report had been drawn up, and a summary would be presented to them that afternoon by Mr. Cobbold. As regarded the main question as to whether they should or should not start any work of the kind suggested, he should like before they got to detail business just to say a few words. He had heard two objections raised to the suggestion during the last two or three days. One was that there was no need to start a home of this kind, as there were two places which did this kind of work already—Miss Johnstone's School at Fairleigh and the Italian Convent. He did not wish to speak disparagingly of Rome or of the work done by Rome, but he did think that in an English colony the Church of England ought not to be lagging behind in looking after the people of the colony, and ought not to leave all that work to be done by the Church of Rome. With regard to Miss Johnstone's School, everyone appreciated the excellence of the work done by that school, but it would be no breach of confidence if he said that the original move towards starting a home of this kind came to him from Miss Johnstone's School, and it was because Miss Johnstone had already a certain number of Eurasian girls in her school and was proposing to move these girls out of her school and devote herself entirely to native work that the necessity of starting such a school as the one proposed was forced upon them. If the school was started the first step would be to pass a dozen or twenty Eurasian girls who were in Miss Johnstone's school into it. As regarded another difficulty raised, a gentleman said it was very easy to start these things but it was not easy to keep them going, and referred to the Diocesan Home for Boys. He said that when that was started money came in rapidly but that it had been a great burden on a good many people since. Of course he could not speak as to how far it had been a burden on a great many people. Mr. Cobbold told him the amount raised every year by subscription was \$1,600, which it seemed to him ought not to be a very great burden on the residents of Hongkong, but if it were a burden, and if the starting of a home for girls involved a burden so far as he understood their duty as Christian men and women it was to bear one another's burden; and when he thought of the numbers of Eurasian girls living in the colony he thought it was their duty to take up the burden for them and do what they could to help them. Therefore he had ventured not on his own responsibility only but at the request of the committee which had been formed to call that meeting that afternoon in the hope that they might be able to see their way to start a home for girls—not exclusively Eurasian, other girls would be admitted—similar to that which already existed for boys in the Diocesan Home. He would ask Mr. Cobbold to give them at any rate a summary of the report which had been drawn up and presented already and accepted already by the committee.

The Rev. R. F. COBBOLD said the Bishop had given them briefly and very clearly an idea of what the committee thought and what he believed those present thought was necessary to be done in the colony, and therefore it was not necessary for him to say much. Some of them had taken a little trouble in this matter and had gone into the question with some care, and they presented to the provisional committee a report the other day from which the Bishop had now asked him to give them some extracts. They had come to the conclusion that a school of this kind was needed. They had further come to the conclusion that a school of this kind could be started provided the community of Hongkong would respond to an appeal for about \$3,000 a year as a start. In course of time as the school increased in usefulness the amount required every year would be considerably less than that. In order to put a school of this kind on a satisfactory working basis it must have a capable superintendent. It might be necessary to have in addition someone whom they would call first assistant teacher in order that the teaching work of the school should be sound and good. Supposing the school were established one of the first items of expense would be the passages of such ladies from England, and he thought he might say there that a sum of money has been partly

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promised and partly collected in England for that very purpose. The Bishop had already told them that there were now some 20 girls in Miss Johnstone's school who would be at once passed over to the new school. He believed he was right in saying that at the end of this year there would be no provision whatever for these girls in Miss Johnstone's school, and if there was no provision for them what was to happen to them? They must make provision for them in some way or another. Then in regard to the expenses they had to meet in carrying on a school of this sort, there was the rental of a suitable house, the salaries of the superintendent and first assistant, the maintenance of the children and the teachers, the expenses of lighting, warming, servants, etc. Supposing no more than these 20 girls came to them they would say at the end of the year. They had been paying a smaller sum than was really sufficient to keep them, because they had been very charitably housed and taken care of. If they came to them paying the same sum as heretofore and they received no more applications or took no more children their yearly expense would be roughly \$6,000 a year. He thought that if anything that figure exceeded what would probably be the amount. The fees raised would bring in about \$2,880, which sum might be supplemented by a grant-in-aid from the Government given under the Education Code, and awarded according to results of examination; such supplementary sum would not at first be more than \$120; thus there would remain about \$3,000 to be raised by voluntary contributions during the first year or two. If the school were successful, it would gradually become self supporting. Mr. Cobbold further urged the need for such a school as the one proposed, and concluded by moving:—"That it is desirable to establish a boarding and day school for girls, more especially for Eurasian children, such school to aim at giving a liberal education according to the doctrines of the Church of England, and that this meeting pledges itself to do all it can in support of that scheme."

Sir JOHN CARRINGTON, in seconding, said he thought they must all be of opinion, if they knew nothing of the matter before—and that was rather his plight—from the statements his lordship and Mr. Cobbold had made that a school of the kind proposed would be desirable and in the best interests of the community necessary. He believed his lordship and Mr. Cobbold had rightly gauged the feelings of that meeting in thinking they would cordially support a proposal directed to the establishment of a school of that kind. He was glad to have the opportunity of saying a few words on a question of that kind, because he was a very strong believer in education for all classes of the community. So far as he knew there was no adequate provision made by the Church of England for the education of Eurasian girls whom it was specially intended to provide for by this scheme. He thought they all saw that to get at girls of that class to give them some degree of culture and some degree of education must be of great benefit to the large and increasing class from which they were drawn. He thought it was of great importance in considering the question of education to bear in mind the position of women. The more they educated the women the more likely were they to have the children well educated, because there could be no question that the more enlightened a woman was the more wishful was she to have her children well-educated. He ventured to think that Hongkong was somewhat behind in this question of higher education. In their pursuit of business they seemed to forget that Hongkong was becoming more and more an important centre of British influence in the East. They seemed to forget that their population was increasing in numbers and importance in every way, and he thought there was every reason why there should be available in Hongkong a first-rate education both for boys and for girls.

The Hon. F. H. MAY said the question which had struck his mind, and it might possibly strike the minds of people who read the report of those proceedings, was what was the reason Miss Johnstone wished no longer to have charge of these Eurasian girls? He had not the slightest doubt there was a very sufficient

reason, but he thought it would help to elucidate the whole question if the reason were stated.

Miss JOHNSTON said there was really a lack of accommodation and then she thought it would be better for the girls themselves to be separated from the Chinese girls. At her school they never sought these children in any way, but they came to them and they were obliged to take them in. Their work was really among the Chinese, but they never refused a child who came to them. Their work, however, had increased so much among the Chinese that they were obliged to keep to them.

Mr. THOMAS JACKSON, in supporting the resolution, said a friend of his had very generously offered a subscription of \$250 for each of the first three years.

The Hon. F. H. MAY said that in asking the question he had asked he did not wish to imply that Miss Johnstone wished to get rid of her Eurasian pupils. He had had a good deal of opportunity of seeing the work done at Miss Johnstone's school, and he was quite sure she would be as sorry to lose her Eurasian pupils as they would be to part company with her.

Sir JOHN CARRINGTON remarked that in what he had just said he might not have taken sufficient account of Queen's College. He would not in any way depreciate the work done there, but he was speaking more particularly with reference to European wants—a grammar school, or higher grade school, where the boys could get such an education and could gain scholarships which would enable them to go to the universities.

Mr. HO TUNG, who also supported the resolution, said he had told Mr. Jackson he was willing to contribute towards the working of the school.

The following were appointed a committee with power to add to their number:—The Bishop, Mrs. Hoare, Lady Carrington, Mrs. Bateson, Mrs. MacEwen, Mrs. Fletcher, Miss Johnstone, Mrs. Hastings, Mrs. Hawkins, Mrs. Gascoigne, Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. Goodman, Mrs. Ritchie, Mrs. May, Mrs. Poate, and Mrs. Atkinson.

The proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to the Bishop for presiding. Mr. JACKSON proposing and Mr. HO TUNG seconding.

#### PIRACY ON THE CANTON AND WEST RIVERS.

The following is a list of some of the steam-launches pirated on the Canton and West Rivers during the last Chinese year, but it is far from being complete, and no account has been taken of the numerous piracies committed on Chinese stern-wheel boats. Several of the launches have been pirated twice. In the following list are given the name of the launch pirated, her nationality and destination, the locality of the piracy, and the casualties beyond the mere robbery where any have occurred:

*Kwong Sing*, Chinese, from Canton to Shuihing, West River, twice.

*Kwong Sing*, Chinese, from Canton to Kongmoon, West River, one pirate killed.

*Hau On*, British, from Canton to Chanchuin, Chanchuin Creek.

*Hau On*, British, from Canton to Chanchuin, Chanchuin Creek, three pirates arrested and one killed.

*Kwong Fook*, Chinese, from Canton to Sunning district, West River.

*Kwong Sui*, Chinese, from Canton to Sunning District, West River.

*Shun Loi*, Chinese, from Canton to Shuntak, Canton River, pirates chased by Customs cruiser.

*Wo Sang*, Chinese, Canton to Sunning, West River, launch damaged.

*Wing Sang*, from Canton to Kongmoon, West River, two pirates killed, launch sunk.

*Lee On*, Chinese, Canton to Kongmoon, West River, one pirate arrested.

*Kwong Ying*, Canton to Shekew, Chanchuin Creek.

*Kung Lee*, Chinese, Canton to Taileung, Chanchuin Creek.

*Lee Loi*, Chinese, Canton to Shuihing, West River.

*Lee Kong*, Chinese, Canton to Shuihing, West River.

*Kung Lee*, Chinese, Canton to Whampoa, Canton River.

*Yuen Sang*, Chinese, Canton to Taileung, Chanchuin Creek.

*Kwong Ho*, Chinese, Canton to Kongmoon, West River, twice.

*Kwong Shun*, Chinese, Canton to Kongmoon, West River.

*Kwan Lee*, Chinese, Canton to Fatshan, Canton River.

*Kwong Tak*, British, Canton to Chanchuin, Canton River.

*Cheong On*, Chinese, Canton to Wuchow, West River, comrade killed.

#### THE "TIMES" ON THE KOWLOON EXTENSION.

#### ANOTHER RECTIFICATION OF THE BOUNDARY.

#### HONGKONG TO COLLECT CHINA'S OPIUM REVENUE.

The Times in an article in its issue of the 9th January says:—

By the extension of territory which has now been made we have acquired on the mainland of China and the coast islands an area about 376 square miles, which is described as a mountainous territory with rich, extensive cultivated valleys and a coast-line deeply indented with bays. The value and importance of the acquisition is that it gives us, in addition to the harbour which we already possess, the good harbourage of Mirs Bay, that it furnishes a much-needed outlet for the surplus population of the island which, in view of the extension of coast-line, will permit in due time of a corresponding extension of commercial operations, and that it secures the military position of the colony by placing the immediately contiguous coast in British hands. The present population of the acquired district numbers about 43,000 and is divided into three classes, of which the native names when translated are "Natives of the Soil," "Strangers," and "Boat People." The Natives of the Soil, Puntis, speak Cantonese, and trace their descent back to the early periods of Chinese history. The Strangers or Hakkas are supposed to be descended from the Mongols and to have reached China about the 14th century of our era. They speak a dialect of their own. The Boat People or Tankas form a class by themselves much despised by the other races. They chiefly inhabit the creeks, harbours, and waterways, and are reported to make excellent sailors. Both classes of the land population are described as hardy, frugal, and agricultural. The Puntis live chiefly in the valleys, and carry on commerce as well as agriculture. The Hakkas live in the hills and add quarrying to their agricultural pursuits. The village system under which these peoples live is extremely interesting. In many instances the villages are walled, and in such cases are invariably inhabited by the members of one clan only. There are no roads in the proper sense of the term throughout the territory, but communication between the villages is effected by means of footpaths about 5ft. wide, paved with slabs of granite. The cultivation of rice, sugar-cane, indigo, pine apples, pea nuts, and other fruits and vegetables is extensively carried on, and the inhabitants of the country, though not wealthy, are described as generally comfortable. Between the walled villages there are sometimes bitter feuds, and in one of the villages visited by the British Commissioner in his recent tour through the country a temple was found specially dedicated to the memory of those members of the clan who had fallen in fights against a neighbouring village. These feuds are, however, said to be dying out. The administration of the country as carried on before the cession to British jurisdiction was by means of an imperfect Chinese Imperial system of magistrates and police, supplemented for all practical purposes by local village government. In every village there are a certain number of constables appointed by the village and paid by local contributions. The duty of these constables is to keep watch, especially by night, and to arrest any evil doer. The person arrested is then brought before a council of village gentry and elders and dealt with according to the decision of their united wisdom. The punishment of death is out-

side their jurisdiction, and appeal may be made from them to the Imperial magistrate.

The place of the Chinese superior authorities will soon be taken by British jurisdiction, but while the newly annexed territory will become an integral portion of the colony of Hongkong, it is proposed for purposes of administration to maintain the authority of village councils and to interfere as little as possible with that part of the system which has appeared to work satisfactorily in the past. Attention will immediately be given to the construction of roads and the development of new harbours and anchorage. The question of the smuggling of opium into Chinese territory, which has always created the principal difficulty in the relations of the colony with China, will not be rendered easier of solution by the acquisition of territory to be placed under British jurisdiction on the mainland. Another little difficulty has arisen in the need which has already made itself felt for the rectification of the northern frontier which separates the ceded promontory from China. It is proposed, if possible, to deal with these two questions together, and in return for a rectification of the frontier to undertake the collection within the colony of the Chinese customs on opium. The opium trade in consequence of its exceptional nature is already subject to restrictions which would make this course less difficult than is at first sight apparent. The only question which will then remain for future settlement is that of the Chinese jurisdiction guaranteed under the treaty of Tientsin within the city of Kowloon. But the military occupation of the city by China must evidently come to an end in territory which has been ceded to Great Britain; and when the troops are withdrawn the population of the town will practically have disappeared. The revenue of the new territory is at present reckoned at about £16,000 a year. Arrangements are being made for the gradual introduction of a system of local taxation for revenue purposes, and it is confidently anticipated that under the security of British administration the development of the local resources of the country will share the steady progress which has hitherto characterized the progress of Hongkong.

#### MISSIONS TO SEAMEV.

##### "STAR" COFFEE HOUSE.

The new premises in connection with the above, situated at the corner of Pottenger Street and Queen's Road, were opened on the 13th February, when a very enjoyable evening was spent by those who gathered together. The proceedings took the form of a tea, to which a good number of seamen sat down, followed by a public meeting. The Bishop of the diocese, who is a warm friend of the Mission, presided at the meeting and in a telling speech set forth the objects for which the "Star" exists—to minister to the bodily comfort and also to the spiritual needs of seafaring men. Addresses, interspersed with vocal and instrumental music, were delivered by the Rev. A. Iliff, C.M.S., the Rev F. Flynn, R.N., and the Chaplain. The arrangements for the tea, were carried out and the programme provided by a committee of ladies, to whom the Mission is greatly indebted not only for this but for many other kind offices. It is hoped that the "Star," which last year had more than 18,000 attendances of seamen, will in these new and more convenient premises become increasingly popular and useful.

#### SPECIAL LICENSING SESSIONS.

On 14th February a special session of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace was held in the Justices' Room at the Magistracy for the purpose of considering the following applications:

(1) Henry James Faunch for a Publican's licence to sell and retail intoxicating liquors on the premises situate at houses Nos. 38 and 39, Praya East, under the sign of "The Praya East Hotel."

(2) James Dodd for the transfer of his Publican's licence to sell and retail intoxicating liquors on the premises situate at houses Nos. 90 and 92, Queen's Road West, under the sign of "The Western Hotel" to Hinrich Varrelmann.

(3) George Leitch for the transfer of his Publican's licence to sell and retail intoxicating

liquors on the premises situate at houses Nos. 148 and 150, Queen's Road Central, under the sign of "The Stag Hotel" to Frank Lewellyn Huzell.

Commander Hastings, Acting Police Magistrate, presided, and there were also present the Hon. T. Sercombe Smith, Mr. D. Crawford, Mr. J. Dyer Ball, Mr. C. W. Duggan, Mr. W. M. B. Arthur, and Deputy-Superintendent Baddeley.

Mr. Thomson appeared for Faunch, and said that the present applicant was a partner with Drews, who had the license before. Drews was now dead, and Faunch wished to carry on the business.

The application was granted, there being no police objection.

Mr. Hursthouse appeared for the second applicant. He said his client was 43 years of age and had never held a license before. He had been to sea since 1873 and had held a master's certificate since 1880. There were five certificates of good character, the most recent one being from Messrs. Sander, Wieler and Co.

There was no police objection and the application was granted.

The third application was refused, there being a police objection.

Mr. CRAWFORD remarked upon the great frequency of transfers.

Mr. ARTHUR said the applicant was very rarely the sole proprietor. These places were generally carried on by a syndicate. There were three or four interested parties generally.

Mr. CRAWFORD mentioned the matter brought forward by him at the last quarterly meeting, when he spoke in favour of the Government amending the Ordinance so that no one should be allowed as guarantors who supplied the applicant with liquor and gave notice of his intention to propose a resolution in regard to it at the next meeting.

The Hon. T. SERCOMBE SMITH—I think we ought to have a bigger meeting than this before we discuss it; this is a special thing.

Mr. CRAWFORD then gave formal notice that he would bring the matter up at the next meeting.

The proceedings then terminated.

#### INCREASING UNITED STATES TRADE WITH HON KONG.

The annual report of Consul-General Wildman, of Hongkong (to be published in "Commercial Relations," 1897-98), says:

A careful survey of the economic conditions of Hongkong during the first half of the year 1898 reveals two facts: First, a general, permanent increase of trade; second, unusual activity in mercantile circles, owing to the great demands made on the local market by the large American squadrons and army on this coast. While this second condition may be temporary and may carry with it corresponding depression in some lines, I predict that it will be of great permanent benefit to American exporters. Nothing that could have happened to this coast would be of so great a help in the introduction of American goods into these markets, as the presence of so large a body of American consumers in our midst. Our forces of occupation have done more than conquer a country; they have made an impression on Asiatic markets that can never be effaced. When our fleet first arrived here (in February, 1898), there were a few sample cases of American tinned milk, fruits, meats whisky, beer, etc., in the big English and German wholesale houses. The imports from America were made up almost wholly of California flour and American kerosene. To-day, every steamer and ship from America brings cargoes of American goods. While their ultimate destination is Manila, they are handled by European firms here and come before the public in such imposing quantities that first curiosity is aroused, and demand follows. The great difficulty in the past has been to get the great body of Chinese consumers to sample our manufactures. Even if this were possible, the goods came over in small consignments and at prices which were prohibitive to all but those who could afford to pay for luxuries. With the influx of the Americans into Manila, American firms have found it to their advantages to send out men to study the needs of this climate. Already, one house has

been established in Hongkong with a branch at Manila, which is meeting with gratifying success. I am informed that there is a shipment of 45,000 bales of upland cotton from Texas on its way here, which has been purchased by a large Chinese firm and is laid down here as cheaply as the Indian cotton. The trouble with the introduction of cotton hitherto has been that American producers have tried to place on the market the lowland cotton, which is too heavy a staple, besides being too expensive. Even our upland cotton is superior to the best Indian growth. The new cotton-spinning mill, regarding which I wrote on January 15, 1898, is nearing completion, and it is hoped will be in operation early in the year. It will create a new market for cotton in this colony. If our upland cotton can continue to compete with the Indian and Chinese growths, the demand will be almost unlimited, as Hongkong is the feeder for three of the richest provinces of southern China, with a population of over 80,000,000 people.

A representative of a cotton-spinning works in Connecticut is expecting, in a few days, to receive a full line of samples which were made according to specifications sent from here. He told me that the managers had never understood this market before, and, now that they did, they would find no difficulty in introducing their goods. He has also solved a problem regarding which every consul in the East has been reporting for the last decade—that is, that it is impossible to obtain the same prices for the same quality of goods on the Asiatic coast that you do in America. Our merchants never seem to realize that Hongkong (the feeder of southern China) is an absolutely free port, and that goods manufactured in the United States come from a country in which a tariff prevails. If the American manufacturer wishes to compete in these markets, he must deduct from the price of his goods the extra amount he usually adds on account of this protective tariff. For instance, there might be a vast market on this coast for American gunpowder, if the manufacturer would make it a point to compete with the German article. At the request of Messrs. Lauts, Wegener & Co. (a leading German firm), I procured samples of gunpowder from the California Powder Works. After a careful examination, they wrote me as follows:

"As we are importing this article in very large quantities from Germany, these samples were naturally of great interest to us; and we may say that the quality of the powder would do very well if it could be laid down here at no higher price than the German make. The prices before us, we are sorry to say, are too dear, according to our calculation. While we could buy the German powder at a price which would allow us to sell the same in this market at \$3.86 Mexican per keg of 20 pounds, we find that for the quality marked 'A' we should want at least \$5.10 per keg of 20 pounds—a figure which is, of course, out of the question.

Calculation:  
1,000 kegs of powder, at 20 pounds, at  
\$2 gold per kg ..... \$2,000.00  
Free on board San Francisco, less 2  
per cent. ..... 40.00

Freight at, say, 20s. per ton on 10 tons 50.00

Landing	.....	.....	per cent.	1
Tel-grans and brokerage	.....	do	1	
Discount	.....	do	2	
Return to dealers	.....	do	2	
Interest	.....	do	3	
Commission	.....	do	5	

Total ..... do 14 = 281.40

At exchange (\$1 Mexican=45 cents  
United States), \$5.10 per kg ..... 2,291.40

It would seem easy for any American powder company to figure as follows: "We have our plant, and have a market in America for all the powder we can turn out by working twelve hours a day. For this powder, we are getting the equivalent in America of \$5.10 per kg of 20 pounds. Now, we find that by increasing our force and working the same machinery, we can afford to turn out twice as much gunpowder, so that we can make a profit by selling the surplus at two-thirds the cost of the first out-

put. In this way, we should be able to compete with German gunpowder in the Asiatic market."

A policy similar to this has introduced our plows and wagons into Mexico, and our sewing machines and bicycles into Asia.

Since the arrival of the American squadron, at least three brands of American beer have firmly established themselves here and one brand of whisky. Canned meats and fruits have also come to stay. Our bicycles are favourites; but as the opportunity of using them is restricted, the demand can never be great or worthy of serious competition. Within the last three months, the agent of an American sewing machine obtained an order for 1,200 machines from an English firm and at the same time an order for a considerable number of bicycles, which his company makes with the same plant that they use for the sewing machines. There will be an increasing demand for cheap sewing machines among the Chinese, and energetic measures ought to be taken to control the market.

In my report on American butter and canned milk, published in Consular Reports No. 211 (April, 1898), I pointed out how difficult it was to get the consumers of this market to sample our goods, and said:

"People here pay \$1.30 Mexican (62 cents gold) a tin for English tinned asparagus, when the same firm (Lane, Crawford & Co.) sells the finest California tinned asparagus for 55 cents (\$6 cents gold), better goods in every way and one-third as cheap."

Since the publication of my report, this firm writes me as follows:

"American asparagus is selling steadily. \*\*\* As to quality, we should put the American tinned article on a par with the English and French, although it is, of course, cheaper than either. \*\*\* You are right in saying that Danish butter is the most popular here; it is the best commercially—that is, regarding both quality and price—and we have tried all sources of supply, including America and Australia."

The trade with the Chinese is a peculiar one, requiring much patience, tact and perseverance. Generally speaking, the class of goods most in demand is of a cheap, flashy nature, commonly known as Birmingham wares, and those of a kindred class, "made in Germany," in imitation. The Germans are the sole importers of the latter, and their small commissions and methods of doing business enable them to compete keenly with the former. The method of carrying on business is peculiar to the East. Credit of from three to four months is usually given, but it is worthy of note that its observance is oftenest respected in the breach. In consequence of keen competition, the agreed term is often disregarded, the Chinaman taking delivery and paying for his goods in instalments to suit his convenience. In spite of this, fresh sales are successively made with him on same terms, until this style of trading has now become generally established. A trade-mark, or "chop," after it has secured popularity, is of far more importance than the quality of the article itself. A marketable article bearing anything but a favoured chop will often prove unsalable, almost at any price, and the Chinese not unfrequently use this as a pretext for depressing the market and refusing to take delivery of orders, when the slightest shade or shadow of a difference, either in size, colour, or design of a chop can be detected. All running accounts between natives are supposed to be settled by Chinese New Year, and any failures in this respect affect the credit of the defaulter. The Chinese are most energetic collectors of all sums due them by Europeans before the above date, while outstanding contracts on their part, or deliveries not taken, are indifferently allowed to stand over, with promises for early settlement. German houses grant these facilities, and others are obliged to accept the terms of the Chinese in order to retain their patronage and perhaps secure a share of new business during the incoming year. A Chinaman is most stolid and indifferent, and reveals little or no facial emotion over either a profit or a loss. He seldom admits a profit from anything purchased of a seller, and in cases where his prospective profit was to have been 40 per cent, he only realized half of it, he will lament, and if pressed declare that he had actually sustained a loss of 20 per cent.

In the sale of tinned milk to Chinese (whether

it be a purchase made locally or the acceptance of his order), his coolies are allowed to open every case, remove the wrappers, carefully inspect each tin, reject all those bearing the slightest defacement, spot, or blemish to label, and replenish the short cases with acceptable tins. The rejected ones they decline to take, except at greatly reduced prices, and often refuse to take them at all, but buy them later in the auction room at their own prices, where the dealers combine and determine the selling price. I do not know of such combinations existing anywhere else. This system of picking over and selecting the fittest is generally allowed, and the sale of watches, clocks, umbrellas, shoes, and, in fact, of almost everything is not exempt from this pernicious system, which the merchants seem compelled to tolerate in their anxiety to do business; in fact, one rash enough to hold out for reform would have to at once put up the shutters.

The above is cited as an inseparable condition of commercial relations with Chinese, and will no doubt excite the curiosity of our trades people. We know that trades unions throughout the United States are powerful and influential, but they listen to argument. Not so in China; in no country do these unions, or guilds, as they are called, exert a more autocratic sway. Each branch of trade or occupation is represented by a guild, supported by contributions or taxes from its votaries. These guilds have no recognized head or place of meeting, their fiat being circulated unostentatiously by word of mouth; each one passing on the decree without comment or criticism, until as if by magic all of its members are found adhering unquestioningly to its dictum. As showing what close concerns they are, it may be mentioned that in cases where their influence has proved subversive of order and good government, the colonial government, with its staff of police and detectives, has never been able to point to their chiefs or to find their body in council. As before mentioned, a refusal to comply with the customary conditions of trade would call forth their action, the result of which would be a complete taboo of the obstructionist.

It must be borne in mind, however, if one accepts their methods of doing business and grants long credits, that, generally speaking, the Chinese merchant is reliable and trustworthy, large transactions being often successfully financed with nothing stronger as a bond than his word or a book record of the facts, written and retained by the principal.

These facts about the Chinese should be borne in mind by American merchants who contemplate doing business, not only in China, but in the Philippines, as in the latter place the Chinese are not only doing important business, but are controlling factors.

There is necessarily very great interest felt in the Philippine Islands, as the large English firms doing business there have offices here; and the bulk of the transhipment cargo from all European countries, save Spain, goes through Hongkong. In the year 1897, 113 ships entered this port from the Philippine Islands (tonnage, 138,000 tons), carrying 106,431 tons. As a comparison, 151 ships entered the same year from Great Britain (tonnage, 351,178) carrying 179,087 tons of cargo and 42,9,609 tons in transit. The ships clearing at this port for the Philippines were 109 (tonnage, 111,487), carrying 42,05 tons of cargo and 16,691 tons of bunker coal. During the same period, 109 ships cleared for the United States (tonnage, 224,945) with 173,020 tons of export cargo. Lamke & Rogge, brokers, in their freight circular dated October 15, say:

"Philippine business has been transacted, notwithstanding all the difficulties that were stated to have arisen, and a number of boats has been taken up on time charter terms at fairly good rates."

The "difficulties" referred to are principally the heavy tariff duties, which make it impossible to sell a certain class of goods in Manila at present. As an example might be mentioned the return from Manila of 1,400 dozen bottles of aerated waters, in consequence of the duty being prohibitive. However, it is expected that these difficulties will soon adjust themselves. At date of writing, there is a demand for sailing vessels for American ports. There are eight sailing vessels in port at this moment,

and cargo for New York is accumulating rapidly.

Regarding our principal imports from America—kerosene oil and flour—there is a steady demand. During the two weeks ended September 27, Shewan, Tomes & Co. report the arrival from the Pacific coast of seven steamers, carrying 527,132 sacks of flour at a selling price varying from \$1.40 to \$2.35 Mexican per sack.

For the half year ended September 30, 1898, the exports from this colony to the United States, as invoiced in this consulate, amounted to \$4,843,016 Mexican. In comparison, the exports to Manila between the dates August 18th and September 30th, as recorded in this consulate, amounted to the magnificent total of \$1,222,963. To arrive at a true conception of the vast volume of imports that poured into Manila during the forty-two days cited, it would be necessary to multiply this by two, to cover the value of the transit cargoes that were not invoiced in this office.

In the harbour master's report for the year 1897, the total tonnage entering and clearing from this port amounted to 15,938,174 tons. There were 38,713 arrivals, of a tonnage of 7,968,606 tons. Of this number, 4,618 were steamers, 356 sailing vessels, and 28,989 junks.

The following imports of the colony are of interest to the United States:

Flour	... ... ...	tons	85,904
Cotton yarn and cotton	.. do	30,581	
Hemp	... ... ...	do	43,360
Kerosene:			
In bulk	... ... ...	do	47,782
In cases	... ... ...	cases	1,689,688
Lead	... ... ...	tons	5,496
Sugar	... ... ...	do	211,777
Timber	... ... ...	do	64,862

All of these items show an increase over the year 1896. During the year 1897, 48 American vessels entered this port with cargoes and 66 in ballast, while 102 American vessels cleared with cargoes and 10 in ballast.

It can readily be understood how difficult it is to cover the entire subject of imports and exports of this colony, when the fact that this is a free port, without a custom-house, is taken into consideration. The prosperity of the colony is rather reflected in the local newspapers, and the "market letters" and "share reports" published by local firms. It is an interesting fact that, on account of its geographical position, the colony of Hongkong benefits commercially by political upheavals of any nature that occur on the entire Asiatic coast. If a rebellion breaks out in southern China, both the rebels and the Government come to Hongkong for their munitions of war, and, although the colonial government has for the past year forbidden the export of arms, thousands of Mauser rifles have found their way into the rebellious districts. The numerous rebellions in the Philippine Islands that have occurred in previous years, have made big demands upon this market for the sinews of war. Our fleet, it is estimated, left in Hongkong over \$2,000,000 gold during the war.

The price of silver has not varied greatly during the past two years, its extremes ranging between 46 and 48 cents.

To endeavour to cover the entire commercial question in Hongkong would entail a report on southern China, the Philippine Islands, Formosa, and all adjacent territory, and involve interests so vast and varied that the impossibility of complying is apparent.

The Nagasaki Press of the 4th February says—H.I.R.M. cruiser *Pamiat Azova*, which arrived here on Thursday from Port Arthur, was specially detailed to convey to this port H.E. Rear-Admiral Reounoff, who has been appointed to the Admiralty at St. Petersburg. His Excellency for the past two years has been second in command of the Russian Squadron in these waters, and he will be succeeded by Rear-Admiral Veselago, who is expected here from Europe on the 6th inst. by the R.V.F. steamer *Moskva*. Rear-Admiral Reounoff, who proceeds to Europe by the M.M. steamer *Tenkin*, due here on the 5th inst., has, we learn, received the Order of St. Anne of the First Class for his distinguished services in the Far East. The *Pamiat Azova* will await the arrival of the *Moskva* at this port, and will then leave for Port Arthur with the new Admiral.

## WATER RETURN.

## LEVEL AND STORAGE OF WATER IN RESERVOIRS ON THE 1ST FEBRUARY.

## LEVEL.

1898. 1899.  
Tyam.....1ft. 6in. below overflow 1ft. 6in. below overflow  
Pokfulam 3ft. 6in. below overflow 4ft. 8in. below overflow

## STORAGE GALLONS.

1898. 1899.  
Tyam ..... 305,000,000 226,620,000  
Pokfulam ..... 57,880,000 15,900,000

Total ..... 362,880,000 242,520,000  
CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN THE CITY OF VICTORIA AND HILL DISTRICT DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY.

1898. 1899.  
Consumption ... 85,644,000 96,225,000 gals.  
Estimated population ..... 193,000 198,500

Consumption per head per day ... 14.3 15.6 gals.

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN KOWLOON PENINSULA DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY.

1898. 1899.  
Consumption ... 6,133,000 5,310,000 gals.  
Estimated population ..... 25,300 26,500

Consumption per head per day ... 7.8 6.4 gals.

Owing to shortness of water the supply in Kowloon Peninsula has been intermittent since the 6th of January.

The Government Analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality.

The public are asked to do what they can to prevent waste.

R. D. ORMSBY,  
Water Authority.

## THE GAOL R.P.R.T.

The report of the Superintendent of Victoria Gaol (Hon. F. H. May) for 1898 was laid on the table at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 8th inst. from which we make the following extracts:—

The number of prisoners admitted to the Gaol during the past year under sentence of the ordinary Courts was 4,976, besides 69 soldiers and sailors sentenced by Courts Martial. There were 51 persons imprisoned for debt and 531 in default of finding security, making a total of 5,427. Of these, 760 were old offenders, including 13 juveniles who were merely sent to the Gaol to be whipped by order of the Magistrate, and were detained pending the infliction of the whipping, leaving a total of 757 old offenders who actually underwent imprisonment.

There was altogether 69 juveniles sent to the Gaol merely to be whipped and arrangements have now been made with the sanction of the Governor by which such juveniles are whipped immediately on reception in the outer court of the Gaol. They do not now enter the Gaol nor are they detained beyond the time actually necessary for whipping.

The corresponding numbers for the preceding year were respectively as follows:—Convicted by the ordinary Courts 4,711, by Courts Martial 48, Debtors 54, in default of finding security 263; total 5,076, including 606 old offenders.

The daily average number of prisoners confined in the Gaol, during the year was 511, as compared with 462 for 1897.

The number of prisoners committed to the Gaol for offences not of a criminal nature was 1,837 made up as follows:—Committed under the Prepared Opium Ordinance, 505; Market Ordinance, 210; Vehicle Ordinance, 39; Sanitary bye-laws, 186; Harbour regulations, 92; for trespass, 14; for drunkenness, 158, for disorderly conduct, 513.

[A table is given showing the number of prisoners who were committed to gaol without the option of a fine and in default of payment of fines, the number committed without the option of a fine being 2,029 in 1896, 1,968 in 1897, and 1,852 in 1898, while there were imprisoned in default of paying fines in 1896 3,553, of whom 1,928 served the imprisonment and 1,425 paid the fine after reception into Gaol;

in 1897 3,108, of whom 1,697 served the imprisonment and 1,411 paid the fine, and in 1898 3,573, of whom 1,815 served the imprisonment and 1,760 paid the fine after reception into Gaol.]

With a view to decreasing the number of prisoners confined in Gaol in default of payment of fines, I have suggested legislation such as has recently been introduced at home, allowing part payment of a fine to be equivalent to serving a proportionate part of the sentence of imprisonment in default.

There were 4,038 reports made by prison officers against prisoners for offences against prison discipline, as compared with 2,619 reports for the previous year.

A proportion of the increase is directly due to the increased population of the gaol in 1898, and I attribute the remainder of the increased reports to the following conditions which rendered difficult the enforcement of strict discipline:—

(a) The location of a larger number of prisoners in association while the work of sub-dividing the cells, which is referred to in paragraph 8, was in progress.

(b) The interruption of the regular routine of labour by this and other structural improvements on a large scale that have been carried out during the year.

(c) The numerous changes in the Indian gaol staff to which I have adverted in C.S.O. 1647/1897. Discipline cannot be maintained by inexperienced officers.

The returns which are appended show a considerable increase in assault on each other, on prison officers, by prisoners, and in the offence of having tobacco.

The number of cases of assault on prison officers was two, which is below the average.

The number of assaults by prisoners on each other shows a large increase. The assaults were, however, with one exception, of a trivial nature, and arose out of petty disputes between prisoners engaged together on unaccustomed work in connection with the structural alterations in, and additions to, the Gaol.

The increase in the offence of having tobacco is due to the fact that at various periods during the year, there were a certain number of free men engaged on work in the Gaol.

The following improvements, referred to in paragraph 16 of my Report for 1897, have been completed during the year under review almost entirely by prison labour at what must be regarded as the small cost of \$15,000:—

(a) On the site of D wing, a large two-storied workshop has been erected the upper floor of which is used as a printing shop while the ground floor is devoted to mat making.

The workshop was much needed, and has rendered possible a useful extension of industrial labour.

(b) The sub-division of association cells into separate cells has been completed. There are now 427 separate cells in the Gaol, and 26 association cells, giving accommodation for 453 prisoners in separate confinement, and for 104 extra prisoners by placing 5 prisoners in each Association cell, or a total of 557 prisoners.

(c) The officers' quarters inside the Gaol have been converted into a commodious hospital, and offices for the Chief Warden and Clerks, but the hospital is still occupied by the Indian staff pending the building of quarters for them outside the Gaol.

(d) What was formerly the Chief Warden's and Clerks' offices, has been turned into a reception room with cells attached.

(e) The old hospital, which is above the female prison, has been prepared for the reception of female prisoners as an extension to the existing female prison. It is, however, still occupied by male prisoners pending the removal of the hospital to the new accommodation provided for it.

(f) Certain alterations in the yards round A and B halls (the Gaol extension) have been made to prevent escapes, and a useful addition to the yards space between the two halls has been contrived.

The following improvements are being now

effected by prison labour, having been undertaken before the end of the year:—

In the Lower East yard the ramp is being entirely removed affording a site for a new and enlarged laundry, which it is proposed to build, and additional yard space for the laundry work, while the old laundry will be converted into a shed for general labour.

When the above work has been completed, it is proposed to demolish B wing and to erect in its place a new hall. B wing contains 15 association cells and 2 separate cells. The new ward would contain 76 separate cells, and, being much more compact, would enable an increase in space in the upper yard. It is also proposed to cover in the centre of the upper yard as a protection against sun and rain in summer time.

With the erection of the proposed new ward, the Gaol would contain 501 separate cells and 11 association cells, the latter being capable of accommodating 55 prisoners, or a total of 556.

The Gaol could then be conducted almost entirely on the separate system.

The fact that the capacity of the Gaol accommodation does not exceed 557 prisoners is one that should not be lost sight of, and when it is remembered that it is necessary to have space accommodation in the Gaol to meet the demands of any emergency, it is evident that with a rapidly growing population and the acquisition of new territory, the question of increasing the Gaol accommodation for the colony is one that already demands the attention of Government.

During the year one Chinese prisoner succeeded in escaping, and two others attempted to escape, but were re-captured by prison officers, by scaling the boundary wall of the Gaol extension.

Structural additions have now been made which will render escapes from the same locality very difficult.

The profits on industrial labour amounted to \$6,264.19, as compared with \$2,610.8 in the preceding year. The increase is principally due to the extension of the Printing Department which now executes the job printing required by the Government and the Military Authorities.

The large number of resignations in the Indian staff was due to the men throwing up their appointment to seek more lucrative employment elsewhere.

Vacancies in the European staff have, with one exception, that of a Hospital Warden, been filled by local candidates drawn from the Army. Some promising officers have been thus acquired.

The year has been an exceptionally busy one in the Gaol, and the large works referred to in paragraph 8, carried out as they were, simultaneously with a high daily average, and at times excessive number of prisoners—the daily average in July was 659 and on two occasions during that month the number reached 589—entailed a great deal of new and unaccustomed work on officers.

Credit is due to all for their share in the labour, but the service rendered by the Chief Warden in immediately directing and supervising the work deserves special notice.

Mr. Craig assisted me with many valuable suggestions in connection with the various works, and to his technical knowledge and untiring industry and resource is largely due the successful accomplishment of an undertaking of no small magnitude.

## CYCLE TOURNAMENT.

On Friday afternoon one of the best exhibitions in cycling ever seen in the colony was given at Quarry Bay Recreation Ground, under the auspices of the Taikoo Club. The weather was perfect and to a great extent took away many who might have found their way to Quarry Bay had it been too cold for picnics, &c.

## 2. MILES CYCLE RACE (HANDICAP); first prize presented; second prize presented.

R. A. Ferguson, 520 yards	...	1
J. M. Rosa Pereira, 430 yards	...	2
F. M. Rosa Pereira, 350 yards	...	3

Out of 18 entries 12 competitors started. The pace of this race was fast from the commencement and was fairly maintained right along. Little was

done in the way of passing, the race eventually being won by R. A. Ferguson, who certainly had too much of a start. J. M. Roza Pereira being a good second, for which place his brother F. M. Roza Pereira tried hard.

**2 MILE BICYCLE RACE;** open to all competitors over 30 years of age, handicapped on merit. First prize presented; second prize presented.

J. Glyn,	100 yards	1
R. Perrie,	230 yards	2
T. Shand,	250 yards	3

Twelve entries had been sent in for this event, and nine competitors started. The Quarry Bay interest in this event, was soon shown as each of the competitors had their own particular supporters, who from time to time gave them exact information as to the number of laps they had run, who to watch, and who to pass (if they could). The scratch man (J. Livingston) tried hard, and from the grand way he passed most of his men it was thought he would win; this was, however, fixed by his giving up the race some 150 yards from home. The cheers that met J. Glyn as he finished showed the win to be a popular one. R. Perrie pressed him hard but had to take second place by a few feet, three yards separating Shand from Perrie.

**2 MILE BICYCLE RACE;** open to all non-1st prize winners. First prize presented, second prize presented.

J. M. Roza Pereira,	250 yards	1
A. E. Alves, scratch	2	
E. W. Hatherley, 250 yards	3	

Out of the eighteen entries received, twelve competitors started, and judging by their manner it was clearly seen each one intended to deter himself from again running with non-1st prize winners. The pace of this race started very high indeed, and what might have been a serious accident luckily did not turn out so bad as at first thought. J. Dickie coming in for the worst, being scratched down one side rather badly as well as receiving a shaking. T. Brunning and the Brothers Gutierrez were thrown clean over the ropes on the outside of the track, Benning losing a good chance of winning, and one of the Brothers had a nasty knock on the temple which stunned him for a long time. A. E. Alves tried hard to catch up, but could not manage to pass J. M. Roza Pereira, who came in a clear first. Time was given as 5 minutes 34 seconds.

**4 MILE BICYCLE HANDICAP;** open to all comers; first prize presented by Mr. Goodchild; second presented by Messrs. G. Fenwick & Co.

R. Henderson,	430 yards	1
A. A. Alves,	380 yards	2
A. McKirdy, scratch	3	

Eleven entries were received for this event, and eight of the best men in Hongkong, and perhaps many miles outside of it started, with such men as McKirdy (scratch), A. A. Alves (380 yards), and R. Henderson (43 yards) as possible winners. The pace was started in dead earnest, and it was soon seen, by the grand style of McKirdy, that he intended giving them some good hard pedalling; but although McKirdy has plenty of heart and is game to the last, it was quite apparent that the men ahead had been given too much start. The handicappers seem to have overlooked the fact, which was freely commented upon by the spectators, that McKirdy (good as he is) cannot be expected to make, at his age, much more in training, whilst the younger men are gaining ground every day.

On the face of it McKirdy's performance, even in only taking third place, must be considered a grand one, seeing what he had to make up. Of A. A. Alves too much cannot be said for the determined way in which he won the race; in overtaking Henderson came a bit of hard riding that might not be seen again for a long time in Hongkong. Henderson stuck to Alves like a leech for a long time, and trying one of his spurts he cleared Alves, but only to be again caught by the latter. McKirdy then put on a spurt and passed the leading men in a manner that called forth the applause of the spectators, but failed to overtake the leader. When the last lap was rung Henderson was 10 yards behind A. A. Alves, but in finishing he gradually crept up level, and then a stubborn struggle right to the finish took place, and amidst the cheers and shouts of the spectators

Alves won a race which for a long time will be thought a good performance. Henderson lost the race by a few inches, and the Hongkong public may look for a treat when these men again meet. As stated above McKirdy came in third, gaining a round of applause, which his performance rightly entitled him to. Time, 11 minutes.

**1 MILE BICYCLE RACE;** for veterans over 40 years of age; 10 yards per year (over 40) start prize presented.

N. McDonald	1
A. M. Roza Pereira	2
F. Eckhoff	3

There were seven entries, but owing to the well known form of the Hongkong champion veteran, Neil McDonald, aged 65, only three competitors came forward. It was an easy win for N. McDonald, who thus keeps up his reputation, which many would like to be able to do when reaching his age.

**6 MILE BICYCLE HANDICAP;** (open to all comers; first prize presented by the staff of the Metropolitan Lock; second prize presented; third prize presented.

A. E. Alves, 690 yards	1
A. A. Alves, 540 yards	2
R. Henderson, 620 yards	3

For the last item on the programme ten entries had been received, but only six competitors cared to face the 3½ laps which make up the distance. McKirdy, nothing daunted by the turn of his two earlier races and the great distance conceded in the start to A. A. Alves and R. Henderson, at once settled down to hard work, and it was perhaps just as well that the handicappers did not make themselves too visible just then. The men were soon running in a good steady pace. McKirdy gained and passed in grand style the first lap of start. Spurts were made from time to time by the Brothers Alves, who were showing the way all along. McKirdy was now seen at his best, and amidst cheers and great excitement he passed for the second lap of start, but when it was known that he had again to pass them before being able to win the remarks that fell from the spectators, clearly proved that McKirdy had their sympathy. The distance was now closing in, and McKirdy seeing that it was impossible for him to win, did not press matters. A good race now commenced between A. A. and A. E. Alves and Henderson, A. A. Alves still leading. In the rush for the finish a claim for a foul was laid by Henderson, A. E. Alves having crossed to take inside position, whilst he was not the required distance ahead to do so, the step of Alves's machine catching in the front wheel of Henderson's. It was most unfortunate that it happened, as it was hard to say how the result might have turned out. Much to the surprise of the onlookers, the Committee gave their decision in favour of A. E. Alves, who thus won in grand form a race he had tried hard for, his brother gaining second prize and R. Henderson taking third. Time, 16 minutes 3½ seconds.

### FOOTBALL.

#### TORPEDO BOATS V. WATERWITCH.

Several spectators turned up on the Happy Valley on 15th February expecting to see a football match between the Hongkong Football Club and the V.R.C., but owing to the inability to get sides together the game was not played. Visitors to the Happy Valley, however, were not disappointed in seeing a game, one being played by elevens from the torpedo-boats in harbour and the survey-boat Waterwitch. The game was far from being a good exhibition of football. Of the two teams the one from the torpedo-boats played the best game, yet they were unable to score. All the players worked very hard, but the game sadly lacked combination. There were a few good players amongst the whole, but they were not backed up, and their efforts were lost, the game ending with no score on either side.

#### SECOND ROUND OF SHIELD COMPETITION.

The Royal Engineers met D. Company of R. W. Fusiliers on 15th Feb. in the above competition. The latter defended the northern gaol with a strong wind in their favour; but the Engineers were the first to attack, and the

Fusiliers' relief was short lived, for the former assailed again, and a good shot from Dagnall struck the uprights. Two shots in quick succession from the Engineers went just over the bar. Play for the next quarter of an hour was all in favour of the Engineers, the opposite side getting but a short way over the centre line now and again; then the Engineers were given a corner. Diene took the kick, and O'Connell cleverly headed the ball between the posts into the net. Christian, Evans, Hand, and Edwards manipulated the ball with judgment and got close to the Engineers' goal, and compelled Ravenor to fist out, and a minute later repeated it, but the Engineers were in good form, and got the leather away to the Welsh end, where Brown sent out to Kerrigan. After a short run he shot for goal, but it would have passed the off upright had not Mather slipped in and headed the ball into the net. Up to half time the Engineers had much the best of the game, and partook of the usual half time "palate moistener" with the satisfaction of knowing they were two goals to the good.

On restarting the Engineers, who now had the wind in their favour, were the first to bombard, and the game had only been restarted a few minutes when Mather centred to Brown and the latter did what was necessary, placing his side three goals ahead. Three minutes had not elapsed, when King grandly centred from a corner kick, and Mather headed a fourth goal. The Fusiliers seemed to be "blown" and somewhat disheartened, and failed to do anything brilliant up to the call of time, allowing the Engineers to get all the best of the play. The latter, but for the extremely bad shooting of Mather in front of goal without any opposition, ought to have left the ground winners by six goals instead of four to nil. Mather, however, might be excused, for he was one of the principal players responsible for the creditable victory of four goals. Brown, Dagnall, and Thornhill were in good form, and Kerrigan did very well, although he was rather slow in parting with the ball.

The teams lined up as follows, Mr. Brown acting as referee:—

ENGINEERS.	FUSILIERS.
Goalkeepers.	May
Ravenor	Backs.
Thornhill	Phillips
Robinson	Jones
King	Halves.
Madigan	Christian
Diene	Jones
Sergt. Blair, A.O.D.	Constant
Forwards.	
Mather	Evans
McConnell	Hand
Dagnall	Edwards
Lt. Brown	O'Leary
Kerrigan	Owens

### HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION

#### SHORT RANGE CUP AND SPOONS.

Twelve members took part in this competition, held on 4th February. Mr. A. Watson scored his first win for this Cup with the creditable score of 96 out of a possible 100. Scores:—

	500	600	H'cap.	Total
Mr. A. Watson*	49	47	—	96
Mr. F. Beck*	45	39	6	90
Mr. G. H. Coles*	47	42	—	89
C. I. M. Wallace, R.E.	44	44	—	88
Corpl. Hills, R.E.	44	41	3	88
Sergt. Blair, A.O.D.	44	42	—	86
Mr. Stackwood	37	41	8	86
Capt. Carlyle	44	40	—	84

\* Winners of Spoons.

#### PEARSON CUP AND SPOONS.

Sapper Clarke, R.E., proved the winner in this competition on Saturday last, with a net score of 99 at the three ranges. Scores:—

	200	500	600	H'cap.	Total
Sapper Clarke*	34	33	32	3	102
Mr. Stackwood*	30	30	30	8	98
Mr. A. Watson*	33	32	29	—	94
Corpl. Carlyle	33	34	27	—	94
C. I. M. Wallace	32	32	28	—	92
Mr. W. Stewart	29	33	24	—	90
Corpl. Hills, R.E.	24	30	32	3	89
Sergt. Blair, A.O.D.	31	2	24	—	87

\* Winners of spoons.

## CRICKET.

**ROYAL ENGINEERS V. H.M.S. "CENTURION."**  
This match was played at Happy Valley on Saturday and resulted in a victory for the Centurion by 12 runs, mainly owing to good play by Golding and Shrubbs, the last two wickets. The following is the score:—

ROYAL ENGINEERS.	
Woods, b Killick	1
Hall, c Killick, b Shrubbs	12
Capt. Manid (Capt.), b Lawson	6
Lieut. Stephens, c Jordan, b Shrubbs	4
Barnyather, c Jordan, b Shrubbs	0
Wild, c Jordan, b Shrubbs	8
Moore, c and b Shrubbs	6
Davis, c Braad, b Shrubbs	2
Spillard, b Killick	8
Sivier, b Lawson	25
Jolly, not out	5
Extras	5
Total	8
H.M.S. "CENTURION."	
Gibbhan, b Moore	17
Jordan, b Moore	5
Lawson, c Sivier, b Spillard	0
Chapman, b Moore	7
Killick, b Moore	8
Braad, b Moore	0
Golding, b Moore	3
Barker, b Moore	1
Sergt Shrubbs (Capt.), b Moore	18
Hause, b Wild	2
Summerban, not out	0
Extras	4
Total	93

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

## SCHOOL AND ORPHANAGE FOR GIRLS.

## TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

MY DEAR SIR,—I am sorry to trouble you so soon again with correspondence on the proposed school for girls, but I am afraid some of your readers may be misled as to the character of the education which it is proposed to give. The word "liberal" was used in the resolution in no illiberal sense: perhaps it would have better described the purpose if the word practical had been added. It is certainly intended that the education should be useful, and such as is best suited to the needs of the children who come to the school. There is no wish to give what your article describes as a "high class education," such as "can be enjoyed by only a limited proportion of" children. Nothing was said, at the meeting, relating to the proposed school, to lead any one to put this construction on the scheme.—Yours faithfully,

R. F. COBBOLD.

Hongkong, 14th February, 1899.

[In connection with the closing remark of Mr. Cobbold's letter we would invite attention to the speech made at the meeting by Sir John Carrington, which appears to indicate that the Chief Justice was led to put the same construction on the scheme that we did, for his Lordship spoke of giving the girls some degree of "culture" and of the backwardness of Hongkong in the question of "higher education." Such remarks, which were allowed to pass without correction, taken in connection with the use of the word "liberal" in the resolution itself, naturally led, we submit, to the conclusion that it was intended to give something more than the ordinary education enjoyed by the majority of children.—ED. D.P.]

## MR. FRANCIS'S LECTURE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."  
Sir,—At last! Even the Chairman of the local branch of the China Association now practically admits that the advocates of the "open door" have been pursuing a shadow. Throughout his interesting lecture he never once referred to the future in connection with the "open door;" reference to this part of his subject was always in the past tense in such phrases as "might have been," "should or could have been," and "should have done." In fact Mr. Francis really acknowledged that the "sphere of influ-

ence" is here already, and (as I said in a former letter), that it has come to stay. The amusing part of this is that the situation now is no different from what it was on 28th December last, when the China Association trotted out their famous "open door" resolutions, and yet we now have the Chairman saying what is perfectly true, namely, that the time for action in that direction is long past, and should have been taken at the time of the Kiaocho incident.

Mr. Francis said that Great Britain said "No" when appealed to, not only at this time, but when Russian and French aggression took place in the north and south, and from that moment Great Britain has acknowledged "spheres of influence" in China. Mr. Francis said it was incomprehensible to him that anyone should use this phrase in connection with China unless he meant the disintegration of the Empire, but he suggested no other. He said that China had not resigned all authority over the various "leases," therefore it was not right to use the phrase "spheres of influence." I maintain that, according to Mr. Francis's own definition, the phrase exactly fits the present circumstances. Neither Germany nor Russia asked China's permission to do what they did. They did it, and talked about it afterwards. Mr. Francis, and I should hope everyone, knows perfectly well that the recent conventions and so-called "leases" are nothing more or less than shams in the ancient farce of "keeping face." China, after finding no one to kick out aggressors, says to the latter:—"Don't take the place, we see you really require it and are only too delighted to lease it to you," and so saves her "face." What nonsense all this is when everyone knows that none of the European Powers will ever retire one step from the present position; on the other hand they will advance.

In referring to railways, Mr. Francis again admitted that they will certainly lead to "spheres of influence." I go further and wish to know how they are going to be built before that happens. Whatever others may do, I am sure the British capitalist is not yet born who will invest a ten-dollar note in railways in Mid-China unless that railway is under foreign control, and the control of a huge trunk line must carry with it the control of the adjoining country. Lord Salisbury, who still speaks of the "integrity of China" (a thing which has ceased to exist) and who talks of China as a "going concern" may see how it is to be done. I confess I do not.

Mr. Francis says he fears that the future will bring about spheres of influence and the disintegration of the empire. Why cannot Mr. Francis and other alleged leaders of public opinion admit once and for all that the dismemberment of the empire has begun some time ago, and will continue. If, as Mr. Francis fears, Russia and France decline to give freedom of trade in their spheres (as is only too probable) we cannot help it now, nor can we object. The only thing remaining for us therefore is to take steps that the rest of China is not shut to us. China is powerless to prevent such a calamity even were she willing, which she is not, and we must act by ourselves.

Should freedom of trade in the greater part of China be lost, as is not only possible, but probable if things are allowed to go on as at present, no one in China can with justice blame the British Government, who have been during the past year grossly misled by the representations of bodies like the China Association and the impracticable and impossible suggestions of Chambers of Commerce. It may be said that institutions like these are the mouth-pieces of public opinion. They certainly ought to be, but I distinctly maintain that with regard to the China question they are not. In every community in China you will find those who, with sheep-like stupidity, will follow a leader over a precipice, without pausing to think for themselves, contenting themselves with the remark, "I haven't thought much about it, but if so-and-so does it, it must be all right."

There are hundreds of such people, but there are many more who do think for themselves, who can see when an error has been committed, but who are prevented from pointing it out from the knowledge beforehand that their views will be pooh-poohed by the select handful who control the destinies of the community aided by the ovine followers of the aforesaid hand.

ful. Those who are unable or disinclined to think for themselves on public questions will consider this rank heresy, but it is true, nevertheless.

Lord Curzon in "Problems of the Far East" says, in discussing "the probable prospect after the war" that "if she (China) deliberately refrains from doing to (i.e. complete reform), the tutelage which she will not voluntarily engage for herself will some day be forcibly applied to her by others; her industrial exploitation, once taken seriously in hand, will pour wealth into other coffers, not into her own; in her refusal to employ foreign servants she will discover that she has invited foreign masters; and where procrastination has been the sole policy, she may find, when it is too late, that partition is the inevitable result."

How true all this is, and yet there are people who wilfully shut their eyes to the truth, and still believe in the "strength and integrity of China" when she cannot even stand, much less walk.

Sir John Davis said, nearly half a century ago, "In no country is the maxim *principia obsta* so indispensable as in China." How true this is also and yet Great Britain has never practised it. Other powers have done so, and with infinite benefit to themselves.

Exit therefore the "open door," discovered by the Chairman of the China Association at some time since the 28th of December last to be a ghost and therefore not tangible; exit also (as the greater includes the less) the China Association's resolutions of the above date; exit the utterly impossible quadruple alliance concerning which, by the way, Mr. Francis thought fit to say nothing yesterday; exit Lord Charles Beresford loaded with military reform; and what remains? Russia remains where she has put her foot, and France and Germany remain. All three will extend their influence—it is only a question of time—and we must follow.

I do not think Mr. Francis, in speaking of the trade with China prior to 1842, can have known of its extent. The East India Company's figures for the years 1817-1828 show an average annual trade with China of over 94 millions sterling, while from 1829-1839 the average annual British trade at Canton alone was just under 8 millions sterling. Further, the trade done by American vessels only at Canton from 1817-1829 averaged annually over 14 million dollars.—Yours faithfully,

B.

Hongkong, 14th February, 1899.

## FOUL AND DUSTY ROADS.

## TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—In calling attention to the state of our roads "Wayfarer" has done the public a good service. There is no excuse for Queen's Road being in its present disgraceful condition. Every day, from about 3 to 7 p.m., there is a great deal of traffic and the dust is most annoying. Besides, such dust as this is calculated to cause serious diseases by carrying poisonous germs into one's nasal cavities, throat, and lungs. Every medical man knows this, and, I trust, our very own Medical Officer of Health will take steps, at once, to protect the public from the danger which now exists by ordering that the road shall be watered in a proper manner.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

PEDESTRIAN.

Hongkong, 10th February, 1899.

## A HOK v. BELILIOS.

## TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—It transpired in Court the other day that an offer was made by Mr. Belilos to settle the dispute by paying \$9,000, half of the plaintiff's claim, the Government to pay the other half, but this was refused. The result of the trial was that a sum of some \$9,000 in costs was added to A Hok's claim of \$21,000. It does not seem to me the least bit likely that matters will be allowed to rest where they are, and seeing that the whole thing could have been settled for \$9,000 if Mr. Belilos's offer had been accepted I cannot help asking you, Mr. Editor, if A Hok brings an action against the Government and succeeds who is to pay this large difference. Are the taxpayers to suffer or is this folly, or will the luminaries on

whose advice the Government acted liquidate the bill by paying so much per month out of their salaries and fees?—Enclosing my card, I remain, dear sir, yours faithfully

ENQUIRER.

Hongkong, 11th February, 1899.

REVIEWS.

*Ricard of Wethens.* By HALLIWELL SUTCLIFFE. London: T. Fisher Unwin. 1898.

TAKING the main features of the plot "Ricard of Wethens" may be described as "Lorna Doone" in a Yorkshire setting. The treatment, however, is original, the writing vigorous, and the interest well sustained. Ricard leaves his Yorkshire moor for a time and is with Prince Charlie at Culloden. On his return he heads a party formed for the breaking up of the Carlasses, or the "Lonely Folk" as they are called, who occupy an almost inaccessible valley all to themselves and have long harried the neighbourhood. The book is a decidedly enjoyable one, and had it appeared before instead of after "Lorna Doone" it might perhaps have become almost as famous.

*An Enemy to the King.* From the Recently Discovered Memoirs of the Sieur de la Tournoire. By R. N. STEPHENS. London: Methuen & Co. 1898. (Hongkong: Kelly & Walsh, Limited.)

AN historical novel of the times of Henri III. and Henri IV. of France, Mr. Stephens's book is a good specimen of the school it represents. Love and fighting, plots and counterplots, make up an exciting narrative, the narrator being the Sieur de la Tournoire, the hero, who in the opening paragraph says:—

"Hitherto I have written with the sword, after the fashion of greater men, and requiring no secretary. I now take up the quill to set forth, correctly, certain incidents which, having been noised about, stand in danger of being inaccurately reported by some imitator of Brantome and De l'Estoile. If all the world is to know of this matter, let it know thereof rightly." The Sieur belonged to the Huguenot party and had an adventurous career in his early manhood.

*To Arms!* Being some Passages from the early Life of Allan Oliphant, Chirurgeon, written by himself, now set forth for the first time by ANDREW BALFOUR, and illustrated by CECIL W. GUINNELL. London: Methuen & Co. 1898. (Hongkong: Kelly & Walsh, Limited.)

FROM Mr. Andrew Balfour's pen nothing but good work is to be expected, and in the book before us the expectation is not disappointed. Allan Oliphant is the son of a Tweedside gentleman. The tale purports to be written after Culloden.

"I have held aloof," says Allan, "deeming the matter an act of folly, and indeed having little sympathy with the unhappy prince; but what has come to pass has stirred me and brought to my mind thoughts of another rising, less well planned, less brilliant, but as unfortunate. It is because the days of 1715 run some danger of being forgotten that I have set me to my task, for my thread of life became, for good or for ill, strangely interwoven with the events of that rash, half-hearted effort of the prince's father to win back his own. Did I indeed rely solely for interest on the tale of Sheriff Muir I had never made a beginning, but, haply for my writing, very curious, and without doubt somewhat marvellous mischances and adventurings fell to my lot, such as are not common to all men, and it seems to me well worth the telling."

The reader will agree that the tale certainly is well worth the telling. Allan is a witness of the battle of Dunblane, and afterwards he is twice kidnapped, being taken on the first occasion to France, where he is imprisoned; and afterwards, on his return to England, by a mad doctor, who purposes to use him for experimental purposes. Through this strange tale of adventure there runs a pretty love story.

*Bismillah.* By A. J. DAWSON. London: Macmillan and Co., Limited. 1898. (Hongkong: Kelly and Walsh, Limited.)

The scene of Mr. Dawson's tale is laid in Morocco, and the plot turns on the love of

Martin Ward, a young Englishman whose father had settled and died in Tangier, for Kathleen Jerrard, who had been adopted in infancy into the household of Martin Ward the elder. A Mr. Bensaquin, who had been appointed the executor of the latter's will, endeavours to replace young Ward in the girl's affections, and as a character study Bensaquin, who pursues his villainies with a gentlemanly absence of malevolence, is excellent. Side by side with the principal love tale there also runs a Moorish one. With the strong love element piracy and captivity, and a pleasing style, Mr. Dawson's book is an eminently readable one.

*That Little Catty.* Dr. Barrère. Isabel Dysart. By Miss OLIPHANT. London: Macmillan & Co. 1898. (Hongkong: Kelly & Walsh, Limited.)

OF the three tales named in the title the first is a pleasant little comedy, the second a ghastly tragedy whose incidents are wildly improbable, and the third a rather strong drama. The plot of Dr. Barrère may be very briefly described. The doctor becomes engaged to a Miss Sartees, who has a wild young brother. This brother kills a man, is tried for murder, and condemned. Dr. Barrère, who had been an involuntary witness of the crime, was the principal witness against the accused, and the keenness of his suffering at being placed in such a position may well be imagined. Strong efforts are made to obtain a reprieve for the condemned man, but they appear to have little prospect of success. Barrère, who has made up his mind that there shall be no death of shame, arranges with the doctor of the prison that the latter shall go away for a fortnight's holiday and leave him in charge. Having thus obtained medical charge of the condemned man he, on the morning fixed for the execution, surreptitiously gives him poison, and almost simultaneously with the death the reprieve arrives. Stricken with remorse and grief he at once leaves the town and is never heard of again. It had previously been arranged that the body of the condemned man should be given to his relatives after the execution, and this arrangement is carried out after the death from supposed heart failure.

It might have occurred to Mrs. Oliphant that objections would be raised to a near connection or friend of a condemned man taking full medical charge of him, but assuming those objections to be overcome it is certain that if death followed there would be an inquest and a *post mortem* examination and that the doctor, being rather an important person on such occasions, would not find it easy to do the vanishing act. Setting aside its improbabilities, however, the tale is sufficiently creepy for the most morbid appetite.

"Isabel Dysart" is a tale of quite a different character. The heroine, a Scotch girl, has two lovers, a young doctor and a young minister, and the contrast between the characters of the two men is well worked out. The doctor is ambitious, clever, and not over-scrupulous; the minister of a nobly self-sacrificing disposition. The doctor is successful in his profession and becomes "Sir William" but it is the minister that in the long run wins Isabel.

*The Times of India Calendar and Directory for 1899.*

This standard book, which long ago attained a high reputation for completeness and accuracy, keeps well abreast of the times, the new volume, as each of its predecessors, shewing some fresh features and being well up to date. A list of its contents would occupy too much space, but we may mention that besides commercial directories for Bombay and Karachi, arranged alphabetically and by trades and streets, and lists of European and the principal Parsee, Mahomedan, and Hindu local residents and European residents in the Mofussil, it contains complete Indian Army and Civil lists; particulars of the rapidly increasing number of manufacturing and other public companies; comparative statements of the finances and imports and exports of India; tables of exchange, weights and measures, etc. Among the additions this year we notice the City of Bombay Improvement Act 1898. The book is well printed and bound and this year gives portraits of Lord and Lady Curzon.

GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

Hongkong, 14th February.

Messrs. Lütgens, Einstmann & Co. General Agents of the Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Co., Limited, inform us that a telegram has been received from the mines stating that 385 tons of quartz from Great Eastern Mine was crushed, yielding 288 ozs. The quartz from the Zulu mine has not yet been crushed. Crushing will be recommenced at the earliest possible moment.

17th February.

We are informed by Messrs. Lütgens, Einstmann & Co. (General Agents of the Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Co., Ltd.) that, owing to the misuse of a code-word by the Manager at the Mines, the result of the clean up was wrongly stated as 288 ozs. instead of 18 ozs. In reply to a telegram inquiring what the bullion had realised, Mr. Georg wires:

"18 lbs.: I have made a mistake; should read thus—18 oz. The Mill has run 21 days. Eastern crushing entirely wrecked. Foul play; probably chemicals. Should yield at least 8 dwts. per ton. I have already recommenced battery, Zulu. Every precaution has been taken to secure. 400 tons Zulu should yield at least 500 ozs."

The telegrams can be seen by shareholders at the office of the Company.

THE SHANGHAI LAND INVESTMENT CO., LIMITED.

The annual meeting of shareholders in the above company was held at the offices of Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co., Shanghai, on the 8th February. Mr. H. R. Hearn presided and amongst those present were Messrs. H. R. Kinnear, E. Jenner Hogg, and C. J. Dudgeon (directors), H. Snethlage, Crawford Kerr, J. M. Young, C. Thorne, R. S. Harvey, P. H. Purcell, W. H. Poate, H. P. Wilkinson, H. F. Bell, H. E. Campbell, H. Moosa, L. Moore, E. H. Davis, W. Lamond, and A. McLeod, representing in all 2,303 shares.

The notice convening the meeting having been read.

The Chairman said—The report and accounts have been in your hands for some days and I may be permitted to take it for granted that you will consider them as read. What will of course have first attracted your attention is the fact that, though the dividends for the year paid and proposed exceed those of '97 by Tls. 7,000 the ratio for the half year that we propose shall be distributed is but 6 per cent. as against 6½ per cent. last year. It must not be argued, however, that this indicates lessened prosperity to the Company, since it must be remembered that more than ½ per cent. of the dividend last year came out of profits on sale of property. Our anticipations of a return this year in equal ratio to that of last were indeed fully warranted as far as our rentals were concerned, the receipts from these having been as is now shown Tls. 29,514 over those of '97. The expenditure incidental to these, however, has been greatly heavier, being Tls. 32,099 against Tls. 21,247, and this has disturbed our calculations. Of course, I am aware that this increase comes naturally from the greater number of buildings in occupation, but there has been higher taxation and increase in insurance by reason of higher valuations for buildings. It is in unusual calls for repairs, however, that the point lies—in repairs to roofs owing to the heavy gales in the spring, in the substitution in many houses in Nos. 1 and 2 Estates of concrete paving for the back yards in lieu of broken tiles (considered necessary for sanitary reasons), and finally in other heavy constructional repairs to fire walls, etc. I do not know that I have anything to add to what is said in the report touching our several properties except I may mention that during the year Tls. 181,560 has been spent in new buildings, and that under the same head we shall this year require about Tls. 122,000. All our houses are let and the loss by the recent fire in Hongkew was of course fully covered by insurance. The working account does not appear to call for further comment than I have already given to it. Turning to our assets

and liabilities, the several estates stand as usual at their actual cost, which is considerably under their market value. Mortgages are Th. 130,500 less than they were at this time last year, and some portion of these will shortly be paid off. The funds withdrawn are devoted to new buildings giving an equally good return, but it may be permitted to regret that the funds at our command do not allow of our engaging in this business to a larger extent. We propose to recruit these by the issue of new debentures whenever the condition of the money market shall allow of our placing them readily. In conclusion I may say that our estimates for 1899 promise a not less favourable return than that of the present year, for unless something untoward occurs during the year we look for rentals considerably exceeding those of 1898.

No questions being asked;

The Chairman moved, and Mr. Jenner Hogg seconded the adoption of the accounts as presented. Carried unanimously.

The Chairman proposed the payment of a final dividend at the rate of six per cent. to every shareholder paid up to date.

Mr. C. J. Dudgeon seconded and the resolution was carried.

Mr. W. H. Poate proposed and Mr. J. M. Young seconded the re-election of Mr. C. J. Dudgeon as a director of the Company. The proposition was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. C. Thorne proposed the re-appointment of Mr. G. R. Wingrove as auditor of the Company for the ensuing year, and Mr. Purcell having seconded, the motion was unanimously agreed to.

The meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman and Directors accorded on the proposition of Mr. C. Thorne.—*N. C. Daily News.*

#### SHOCKING BARBARITIES TO A MURDERED FRENCH PRIEST IN HUPEH.

Ichang, 29th January.

The body of the late Rev. Father Victorin-Jean Delbrouck—captured by the *Hwei-sei* or *Ko-lao-hui*, and murdered after horrible torture for five days at Chih-keo-shan, arrived here last week. It came down unattended and was put out on the beach in a beggar coffin without a lid, and left for the inspection of the rabble, who indulged their eyes and expressed their contempt for it in every possible manner. A telegram from the Viceroy stirred the Prefect up to the point of having it removed to the Hwang-lin temple.

Examinations were made by French physicians and Dr. Collins gave it a cursory examination on Sunday morning. It was found in a good state of preservation, owing to coldness of atmosphere and the fact that the vital organs had been removed.

The head had been severed from the body, the eyes extracted and the brain removed, an opening being made above the forehead at the juncture of the frontal and sagittal sutures. There was a cut in the occipital region, doubtless from an executioner's axe. The trunk had been opened near the median line, and the heart, lungs, stomach, and small intestines removed. There had been attempted removal of the left arm and leg, the tissues being cut to the bone, but the bone not broken or dislocated. There was a shot wound in the back and right hand, doubtless due to the fact it was tied behind. The whole body was mutilated. The refinements of torture were practiced, bruises, burns, cuts. I doubt if a worse case of fiendish torturing of a helpless victim is on record.

The history of the case is a record of savagery of the perpetrators, and the wilful neglect and criminal connivance of the Peking Magistrate; if rumours are true the facts we know are sufficient to convict him. The *Hwei-sei* will pay the penalty, but in reality both there and here the officials seem culpable for the death and after indignities at least.

It is inconceivable that a people could be so myopic in barbarism. Hung up for five days beaten, shot, tortured, and finally disembowelled, cut down and head cut off. Is it not proof of the utter barbarism of this people?

A system which requires torture to extract the truth, where thieves dwell in the courts of justice, where native watchmen belong to the guild of thieves, and the yamen gates are guarded by thieves, what with such examples and patterns to follow can be expected of a poor down-trodden, degraded people? These people who have done the horrible deed have been incited by those who have for years circulated the vile pamphlets against and openly heaped contumely upon the foreigner. The *Ko-lao-hui* pamphlets are the work of the gentry, and in the whole system of treatment of foreigners from Peking to the borders of India, the policy has been one and the same. This crime is the legitimate fruit of that policy. It is seen here in the last two weeks where a proclamation has been put out by the highest civil official, a Banlin, just from Peking and in which he is continually on the foreigner and calls them by the name of Yang Jan. He tells the people the missionary is but a common illiterate, his doctrine but the vomit of corrupt Buddhism and Taoism, only to be compared to Mohammedanism, and that Christians are a common class, harmless and not to be feared. This and much more at a time when persecution is everywhere rife and martyrs are many. I submit is not this policy responsible for the outbreaks?—*China Gazette* correspondent.

Ichang, 31st January.

I have to-day seen a sad and pitiful sight which I wish I could bring home to some of those benighted statesmen who will fatuously insist on regarding and treating this nation of China as a civilised or even semi-civilised people. What I saw—and the horror of it will remain with me for many a long day—was all that was left of what but little more than a month ago was a fine, enthusiastic, young Roman Catholic priest who came out some eighteen months ago to bring light and religion to a people who have done him to death in a manner that could not be surpassed by the wildest African savage. Father Victorin was a Belgian, not quite twenty-nine years of age, and was appointed by his Bishop some two months ago to a Roman Catholic station at Shihkunshan, in the Patung district, about 100 miles from here. For some time past there has been a feeling of enmity against the Catholics smouldering among the evilly disposed, and this at last came to a head in an attack on the Catholic converts at Shihkunshan. Father Victorin at first made his escape, but was so unfortunate as to be caught by a roving band of the rioters who after beating him cruelly and stripping him almost naked, tied him on a board and brought him in triumph back to his former home, where a large band of rioters was assembled whose evil passions had been stirred up by the burning-out and slandering of converts in which they had been indulging. In sight of his late home they tied the poor priest up to a tree, and here I would gladly draw a veil over the rest of his ghastly scene, but that I feel that the world should know of what the Chinese in their hour of triumph over a defenceless foreigner are capable, and I would warn all readers who are inclined to be squeamish to read no further, or to skip the next few lines.

As this poor man hung from the tree to which he was tied, pieces were cut from his thighs and eaten by his tormentors. From the state of his poor body fire was evidently applied to it, and slugs were fired into non-vital parts. Finally his body was cut open from the chest to the bottom of the abdomen, he was disembowelled, and the various organs were taken out and eaten by these semi-civilised people, who at the same time drank his blood. He was also mutilated in a way that cannot be described, and his head cut off; there being a hole in the top of the skull large enough to put one's fist in. The head—which I may add is entirely cleaned out of the brain, etc.—is easily recognisable, bearing the small brown moustache which he wore. One eye was evidently gouged out.

Now first, as to how these particulars are known. The poor remains tell their own tale to begin with, and I have seen, to my sorrow, the state of things that would manifestly result from such treatment as I have described. In addition to this details are gradually leaking out through native eye-witnesses, who are not in any way connected with the Mission and

have absolutely nothing to gain by exaggeration. Secondly, as to the exposing to view here of the remains, which, after determined and persistent demands for their recovery, were finally brought in by the officials much as those of a workhouse pauper would be treated. To expose the remains in a native temple to the view, not only of foreigners, but of any Chinese who chose to come in and look, struck most of us at first as not only bad taste on the part of the Mission, which is responsible for this procedure, but as questionable policy, seeing that every native who came to look would probably regard it as evidence of his countrymen's triumph over the "foreign-devil." But looking at it from all possible points of view, which must include the Chinese, one is inclined to think that the mission took a wise course. In the first place, they firmly refused to have the remains brought inside their compound and here they were unquestionably right. The body once inside the Mission walls, the Chinese officials would in all probability have at once declared to the Viceroy and to the world that it bore no signs of mutilation, and would have promulgated or encouraged the belief that any such signs must be the result of the Fathers' machinations in order to make their tale good. Equally, the only way to bring home to the Chinese world the outrage that had been committed was to insist, as the Fathers wisely did, on the body bring—reverently and decently, of course—exposed to view in a prominent local temple such as it now lies in, with native official employés keeping watch always with the priests, so that it can never be said that the body was tampered with by either side. All this, though repulsive to a cultivated European mind, is quite correct from a Chinese point of view. The remains are now enclosed in a fitting coffin, which is sealed with the seals of both district officials and of the Mission, pending the settlement of the case at Hankow.

Finally, it is necessary to remind the foreign communities of China that this is not a special case such as is not likely to happen elsewhere. Large foreign communities are, of course, safe, the native mob being utterly cowardly, but in the case of small communities and isolated foreigners, such a tragedy as the above may be enacted at any time. It is idle for optimist admirers of the Chinese to close their eyes to everything that is going around them, and murmur: "Oh, quite impossible!" The writer who has known these people for some years, makes bold to say that in every town in China, there are always plenty of savage ruffians prepared to carry out such fiendish atrocities as above described, at any moment they may get the chance, and with such people, as with all Asiatics, there is only one method, and that is a show of force and of firm determination to use it at a moment's notice, if necessary.

It is scarcely needed surely to add, in conclusion, that—apart from our common humanity—such a case as the above affects us all. On these occasions, it is noteworthy that the natives in their fiendish passion do not say: "Slay this or that countryman, or this or that religionist," but simply "Sha (or Tu) yang-jen"—"Slay the foreigner!"—*N. C. Daily News* correspondent.

H. M. KWAN HSU.

Shanghai, 7th February.

There were various rumours amongst local mandarins on Sunday and yesterday with regard to grave news recently arrived from Peking concerning the failing health of the Emperor Kwang Hsu, and this report has been emphasised by a telegram in the *Universal Gazette* to the effect that "the Emperor's illness is very serious." A member of the staff of this paper called upon several influential native officials yesterday on the above subject and from one of these mandarins he obtained a glimpse of a confidential letter received from a Palace official at Peking. The letter in question stated that the fear of the Empress Dowager of the Ministers of Great Britain, America, etc., alone prevented the summary poisoning of the Emperor immediately after the *coup d'état* of September last, and the consequence was that the health of the Emperor gradually recovered—the idea being that a slow poison

ing had been attempted. Encouraged, however, by the apparent indifference of the foreign representatives as to H.M. Kwang Hsu's continued existence, and especially by the cordiality with which their wives accepted the invitation to the Palace, the Empress Dowager urged on by Kang Yi, the President of the Board of Punishments, has now determined to make away with Kwang Hsu altogether, and the dawn of the New Year may see another person on the Dragon Throne. The Empress Dowager, ever since the coup d'état, has always had persons on whom she relied to report to her daily the pulse of the foreign sentiments towards herself and her usurpation, and it must have been shown to her that no objections would be made to any of her actions by the foreign Ministers or she would not dare to put a new Emperor so soon on the Throne. Another Peking letter received by a second local mandarin shown to our Reporter merely stated that "the Emperor's health has recently grown suddenly worse and this appears to point to the fact that the Empress Dowager has now learnt the secret of putting the jealousies of opposing Ministers against each other and reaping benefits therefrom." —*N. C. Daily News.*

#### LIGHTHOUSES IN FORMOSA.

The lighthouse at Hokuto in Formosa, now in course of construction, is considered the greatest work of the kind in the East. The total cost of the lighthouse is estimated at 203,400 yen and it is to be completed in three years.

A lighthouse at the entrance of Kelung, also under construction, will be finished within this year, its cost being estimated at 46,605 yen.

Besides these, lighthouse at Fukikaku will be lighted in a short time.

The date of the opening of the lighthouse at Hakusha is uncertain, owing to the material for the work having been washed away by the inundations of last year.—*Nagasaki Press.*

#### DEATH OF A NOTORIETY OF THE CHINA JAPAN WAR.

The China Gazette of the 6th February says:—Howie, the hero of the abortive scheme to blow up the Japanese fleet in November, 1894, has committed suicide. His death was officially reported at the U.S. Consulate here to-day by the Captain and officers of the steamer from which he jumped overboard. It will be remembered that in November 1894 while the Japan-Chinese war was in full swing, Howie with another man named Brown or Cameron, was forcibly arrested at Kobe by the Japanese police and some sensation was caused by the protests of the French Government against the arrest of the prisoners while on board a French mail steamer. But beyond a brief diplomatic correspondence nothing came of the incident. Howie and his companion were subsequently released upon giving their parole that they would desist from all attempts to assist the Chinese in the prosecution of the war against Japan. Howie's companion honourably carried out this undertaking, but Howie himself broke it and proceeded to China to carry out his crack-brained project of burning the Japanese fleet by means of some mysterious fluid with which he was to flood the sea and to ignite by a burning shell fired at long range. He got together some junks and loaded them with some explosive near Chefoo, but the premature explosion of the junks by some mysterious means put an end to Howie's experiments, though he turned up in Weihaiwei and was there during the bombardment and we saw him amongst the 13 foreigners who were taken prisoner by the Japanese, who, however, did not recognize him under an assumed name. Latterly he has been doing some sort of semi-military work for the Chinese in the north and was lately in Port Arthur, whence he was given a passage to Shanghai out of pity, as he appeared to be in a very destitute and half crazy state. He became so violent on the voyage that he had to be put in irons and yesterday morning he somehow managed to escape from his guards, one of whom he knocked over, and rushing to the side jumped overboard. He never rose again.

#### LOSS OF THE "ANDALANA."

The British ship *Andalana*, which left Shanghai on the 11th of November last for Port Angeles, where she arrived on the 29th of December—sailing for Tacoma on January 6th—has been lost under strange circumstances. She capsized off Tacoma on the morning of the 14th ult. and Captain Stirling and seventeen men were drowned. The gale which blew her over, says a Tacoma journal, was one of the most severe experienced there in years. It blew at the rate of thirty-eight miles an hour. The *Andalana* was capsized almost instantly and before her officers and crew knew that they were in peril. A gale sprang up at noon on the 13th and it did not subside until nightfall or the *Andalana* probably would have pulled into a dock. As it was, she remained at anchor in the stream, being prevented from tipping over by heavy log buoys moored on either side of her. All of her ballast had been discharged and she had taken no stiffening aboard. There is no doubt that when the terrible gale sprang up during the night she partly turned over. This lifted her starboard ballast log out of the water and its weight caused a defective link to break. Thus released from the log, the ship turned suddenly on her beam ends, and in another instant the water was pouring down her hatchways. These were but loosely covered and afforded no protection. With her toppling masts and towering sides to give the gale full swing, the *Andalana* went over as though she were a racing shell. How the seamen struggled to escape can be imagined, but without doubt they had scarcely leaped from their bunks into the inflowing waters before their vessel had struck bottom, twenty-three and a half fathoms below the surface. This is indicated by the fact that the vessel did not drift from her mooring place, but sank almost at the spot where she was moored.

#### NORTH FORMOSA:

##### [FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

TAMSUI, 8th February.

The sanitary report ending 4th February shows 59 cases of plague, of which 41 were fatal, in the Tainan Prefecture, and 10 cases of small-pox in the Taipet Prefecture. At present a thorough cleaning is going on in the city and I have seen the streets piled up with merchandise and furniture as if fire had broken out in the neighbourhood and the people were removing their effects. With a marked street improvement and the enforcement of every possible preventive measure, I hope the disease will not assume such an epidemic form as we had experience of two years ago.

We are told that the Osaka Shosou Gaisha will establish a steamship line between Tamsui and Hongkong via Amoy under a Government subsidy from April next.

The cable between Tumani and Foochow having been relaid will be reopened to traffic before long.

#### COOLIE OUTRAGES AT KOBE.

After six or seven months of immunity from coolie outrages, we regret, says the *Kobe Chronicle*, to have to report a most cowardly and unprovoked attack upon two foreign ladies which occurred yesterday, 7th February. About half-past two in the afternoon, Mrs. Jones and Miss Ida Smithers were proceeding down the hill on what is generally called the Sannomiya Road, when a cart laden with mud apparently for use in house-building was met at the corner of Shimoyamate-dori, near Messrs. Siegfried & Co.'s offices. Without suspecting anything the two ladies were passing on, when just as they got abreast of the cart one of the coolies took up a handful of the mud and deliberately and with great force flung it in Miss Smithers's face, part of the mud spattering over the cape worn by Mrs. Jones. Fortunately Miss Smithers was wearing her veil down or she might have received serious injury to the eyes. As it was she was blinded for a few minutes. After recovering from the shock the two ladies looked round for assistance, but unfortunately it was just at the time when few foreigners are to be seen, most of them having returned to

their offices after tiffin, and as there is no police patrol in Kobe there was no chance of seeing a policeman. However, the ladies proceeded in the direction of the police-box at Ikuta, and on seeing this the coolies took up their cart and ran. Complaint has been made at the Central Police Station, and there should be no difficulty in discovering the actual offender, as the mud must have been intended for some place on the hill where building operations are going on. It might perhaps be well if the Governor were to re-issue the warnings to coolies and take other measures such as those of last year, which certainly for the time being succeeded in preventing these cowardly attacks on ladies.

#### HONGKONG.

There were 1,938 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week of whom 118 were Europeans.

Consul-General R. Wildman is in receipt of telegraphic information that the Philippine Commission has arrived at Yokohama.

The Italian cruiser *Elba*, the relief of the *Marco Polo*, arrived on Monday night and on Tuesday morning exchanged the usual salutes.

The hearing of the case of Cheang Yau-Fo and others v. Choy Chan was concluded at the Supreme Court on Thursday, judgment being reserved.

A married woman named Li Ho, who resides at 20, Pottinger Street, was sentenced to six months' hard labour at the Magistracy on 15th Feb. for child stealing.

The P. & O. steamer *Brindisi*, which was recently run into by the *Yayeyama Maru* at Bakau, Shimonoseki, is to be sold by public auction at Nagasaki on the 4th March.

The Hon. T. Sercombe Smith commenced his duties as Police Magistrate at the Magistracy on 16th Feb. He had a long list to go through, a crowd of Chinese being fined for letting off crackers during prohibited hours.

H.M.S. *Grafton*, which was reported to have gone to Weihaiwei, returned to the harbour on Monday evening, having only been out for firing practice. General and Mrs. Gascoigne were on board. The *Grafton* will probably leave for Weihaiwei on Monday next with the dredger *St. Enoch*, which has had the damage sustained on the voyage up from Singapore made good by the Dock Co.

Three Chinamen were charged at the Magistracy on 14th February with being concerned in an armed robbery earlier in the day. A woman who lives in a mat-shed at Taihang said that ten men, some of whom carried weapons, broke into her dwelling and took away property valued at \$136. She reported the occurrence to the police, who accompanied her to different houses, where she identified defendants as being of the party of predators. They were remanded for a week for further enquiries.

At the Magistracy on 14th February A. Fuk Tai Loong, compradore, was charged with selling brandy to which more water than the quantity allowed by law had been added. On the 5th inst. Inspector Duncan visited defendant's shop and purchased a bottle of three star brandy for 75 cents. On the brandy being analysed it was found to contain 10 per cent. excess of water. The man having been fined before for a similar offence Commander Hastings decided to deal with him severely on this occasion. He accordingly fined him \$200.

The installation meeting of the Phoenix Chapter of Sovereign Princes, Rose Croix of H.R.D.W., No. 17 A. & H. Scottish Rite, was held in the Masonic Hall on Shrove Tuesday, the 14th inst., when the following officers were duly elected and installed for the ensuing year, viz., M. W. Sov., Sir Knight Wm. Farmer; I. P. M. W. Sov., Sir Knight Thos. Spafford; Deputy M. W. Sov., Sir Knight J. L. Andrew; High Prelate, Sir Knight Ugo Nervegna; Senior Warden, Sir Knight G. Mollison; Junior Warden, Sir Knight H. B. Bridger; Treasurer, Sir Knight Fred. Howell, 30; Secretary, Sir Knight Geo. A. Watkins, 32; Master of Ceremonies, Sir Knight J. Goodchild; Chancellor, Sir Knight Jno. F. Lemm; Standard Bearers, Sir Knight F. Ulte and Sir Knight Jas. Osborne; Stewards, Sir Knight J. McL. Farr and Sir Knight G. Badolo; Inner Guard, Sir Knight Jesse Rees Lee; Equerry, Bro. J. Jorus.

**At the Magistracy on Saturday Nuno Alvares Gonsalves, clerk in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, residing at No. 2, Mosque Terrace, was charged that he did wilfully and with intent to defraud, utter and falsify an account, to wit, a bank debit voucher, on 6th October, 1898. Mr. J. C. Peter, Chief Accountant, was complainant. Mr. G. C. C. Master appeared for the prosecution. Accused pleaded guilty. Mr. Master asked the Magistrate to deal summarily with the case. Commander Hastings imposed sentence of six months' imprisonment.**

Commander Hastings held an enquiry at the Gaol on Tuesday afternoon into the circumstances attending the death of a prisoner named Lo Hin, who was admitted on the 7th inst. under sentence of 42 days in default of paving a fine of \$25 for keeping an unlicensed common lodging-house. When Hospital Warder Holmes visited him in his cell at five o'clock on Sunday afternoon he complained of having a pain in his chest. He was placed in the association ward with three other prisoners. Deceased said he was an opium smoker. He was found to be suffering from diarrhoea. At about eight o'clock on Monday morning deceased appeared to be taken suddenly ill and Chief Warder Craig was informed and the Medical Officer telephoned for. Pending his arrival brandy and beef tea were administered and hot water bottles applied to the pit of the stomach. The man died, however, at 8.20 before the medical man arrived. Drs. Lowson and Stedman, who made a *post mortem* examination, said the cause of death was acute peritonitis due to the rupture of an ulcer in the stomach, and a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony was returned.

**COMMERCIAL.****TEA.**

**SHANGHAI,** 4th February.—(From Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co.'s Circular).—The New York Telegrams lately received point to a material advance in both Black and Green Tea markets, and the reduced export figures from here appear to justify the expectation of still further advance shortly. In our Black Tea market very little of interest is reported. Common Oolongs have touched Tls. 12½ a picul, which is the lowest quotation for Black tea this season. It is too early to obtain any reliable news about the coming crop, though we are credibly informed that some "crack" Ningchow Tea has already been broken. Settlements reported are:—

Ningchow.....	210 1/2-chests, at Tls. 15	a picul.
Houow .....	404 .....	14½ at 1½ ..
Oonam .....	814 .....	12½ at 19½ ..

1,428 half-chests.

Stock, 1,293 half-chests.

**Green Tea.**—The only descriptions on offer have been Pingsuey and a few Local packs, but for these the demand has been stronger than for any Green Teas during the whole season. Settlements have been large enough to swell our export figures to the U. S. and Canada beyond those telegraphed by many buyers as the probable total for the season, and it is said that further arrivals of consequence may be looked for from the Pingsuey districts after the China New Year holidays. It is not known, however, whether these expected arrivals will be up to the American standard of "quality." In Country Tea the season is definitely closed. In Yixings the demand has been strong enough to induce tea-owners to be firm hold-ups, but the settlements have not been large.

Settlements reported are:—

Pingsuey .....	8,932 1/2-chests, at Tls. 22½ to 27½
Local packed .....	770 .....

9,702 1/2-chests.

Total Settlements from opening of the season to date are:—

1898-99.

Settlements. Stock.

	1/2-chests.	1/2-chests.
Pingsuey .....	76,161	3,679
Moyune .....	78,223	
Tienkai .....	82,514	Nil
Fychow .....	16,846	
Local packed.....	18,910	340
Total .....	272,954	4,019

1897-98.

Settlements. Stock.

	1/2-chests.	1/2-chests.
Pingsuey .....	89,338	24,543
Moyune .....	88,731	
Tienkai .....	82,536	Nil
Fychow .....	21,977	
Local packed.....	17,844	489
Total .....	300,426	23,032

**EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.**

	1898-99.	1897-98.
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai.....	14,020,305	35,763,327
Foochow .....	13,200,549	12,622,170
Auoy.....	688,318	685,671
Canton .....	4,143,761	5,155,162
	32,314,662	54,531,710

**EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.**

	1898-99.	1897-98.
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai .....	16,621,547	20,836,060
Amoy .....	12,034,647	14,522,772
Foochow .....	7,207,412	7,126,264
	34,953,606	42,485,096

**EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.**

	1898-99.	1897-98.
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow.....	22,781,272	19,462,293

**EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.**

	1898-99.	1897-98.
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama .....	25,117,003	25,670,891
Osaka .....	13,658,333	15,602,288
	38,775,366	41,273,181

**SILK.**

**CA-TON,** 3rd Feb.—**Silk.**—Fsattees.—The market is quite bare of Fsattees of all grades, and no supplies are expected for the next four months. R-reels.—Nothing obtainable. Filatures.—Have been in good demand and prices advanced \$10-20 per picul. Notwithstanding the advance offered, dealers refuse to contract further at present. Most of the filatures are engaged for four to eight weeks, and, there being no stock, almost every sale marks a further advance. From prices paid we quote: \$820 for Kwong Shun Cheong and Min King Lun 11/13, \$815 for Kwong Shun Hang 11/13, \$82 for Wing Wo Lun and Cheong Kee 9/11, \$81 1/80 for Po Geong Wo, Kwong Wo On, Kwong Faak Shun 10/12, \$95 for Yu Wu Cheong 11/13, \$790/785 for Shoi Hin W 1/13, Wing Hing Lun 11/13, Wing Yuk K 10/12 and Kwong Lun 11/13, \$71 for Yee Wo Lun and Hing Lun 11/13. Short-reels.—Have been in good demand and high prices have been paid.

**SHA OH 1,** 6th February.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular)—The Home markets keep firm, and the quotations for Blue Elephants in London has risen to 10/11, whilst Gold Killings are quoted in Lyons at Frs. 31. Raw Silk.—A quiet state of affairs has to be reported; settlements are only on a very small scale, about 200 bales in all; a parcel of Gold Killings has been taken at £s. 505. Yellow Silk.—Nothing doing, stocks nil. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, January 28th to February 4th, are: 899 bales White, and 117 Yellow silk. R-reels and Filatures. A small business has been done, and prices show an advance; totals 1,115 bales of Hand Filatures amount to 125 bales, Steam Filatures keep quiet. The export of Steam Filatures to date is: 2,441 bales to France, 1,906 bales to America and 78 bales to London. These figures do not include the ship next per *Gaelic*, some 180 bales. Wild Silk.—About 100 bales have been settled. Waste Silk.—Market quiet, there is some enquiry for White fine Gum.

**EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.**

	1898-99.	1897-98.
bales.	bales.	bales.
Shanghai .....	51,722	44,470
Canton .....	24,225	19,832
Yokohama .....	17,057	16,512
	93,004	80,314

**EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.**

	1898-99.	1897-98.
bales.	bales.	bales.
Shantung .....	6,928	9,429
Canton .....	8,247	10,105
Yokohama .....	2,878	25,483
	36,053	45,917

**CAMPHOR.**

**HONGKONG,** 17th February.—There have been no sales since the China New Year. Quotations for Formosa are \$52.00 to \$55.50, No sales.

**SUGAR.**

**HONGKONG,** 17th Feb.—The market has ruled firm and prices are advancing. Quotations are:—Sze-kloong, No. 1, White .. \$7.75 .. 7.80 per picul. do. " White .. 7.20 to 7.25 " She-loong, No. 1, Brown .. 5.20 to 5.25 " do. " 2, Brown .. 4.90 to 5.00 " Swatow, No. 1, White .. 7.75 to 7.80 " do. " 1, White .. 7.10 to 7.15 " Swatow, No. 1, Brown .. 4.85 to 4.90 " do. " 2, Brown .. 4.70 to 4.75 " Foochoo Sugar Candy .. 11.50 to 11.60 " Sanktoren .. 10.60 to 10.50 "

**MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.**

Per steamer *Dorothea Rickmers*, sailed on the 4th February. For Beyrouth:—20 rolls matting. For Dunkirk:—5 casks wood oil. For Havre:—1 case hats, 2 cases China ink, 2 cases sundries, 7 cases human hair, 10 cases paper, 34 cases blackwoodware, 37 cases wood oil, 40 cases bristles, 64 bales China grass, 143 cases Chinaware, 154 rolls matting, 256 packages canes, 30 packages tea, and 511 rolls mats. For Havre and/or Hamburg:—1 case feathers, 11 cases human hair, 29 casks egg yolk, 50 cases litho. paper, 97 cases Chinaware, and 220 rolls matting. For Hamburg and/or London:—15 cases bristles, 50 cases staraniseed, and 110 cases preserves. For Hamburg:—1 case gongs, 1 case silks, 1 case tea, 1 case earthenware, 1 case carving, 1 case lanterns, 2 cases brassware, 2 cases blackwoodware, 2 cases China ink, 3 cases curios, 3 cases preserves, 3 cases copperware, 4 bales horse-hair, 9 bales goatskin rugs, 10 boxes essential oil, 12 cases camphorwood trunks, 14 cases cigars, 14 cases rice paper, 15 cases teasticks, 20 bales bambos, 37 cases Chinaware, 40 cases bristles, 42 bales strawbraid, 53 rolls matting, 66 cases palm leaf fans, 103 packages merchandise, 120 casks wood oil, 138 rolls mats, 150 cases staraniseed, 180 packages gallnuts, 200 cases cassia, 280 packages crackers, 353 packages canes, 1,100 bales broken cassia, and 1,429 bales feathers. For Hamburg and/or Bremen and/or Amsterdam:—25 casks preserves. For Hamburg and/or Bremen and/or Rotterdam:—25 casks preserves. For Hamburg and/or London:—10 cases gallnuts. For Hamburg and/or London and/or Glasgow:—125 packages bristles. For Hamburg and/or Antwerp:—70 cases bristles. For Bremen:—101 rolls matting and 213 bales tobacco. For Amsterdam:—50 casks preserves. For Antwerp:—58 bales tobacco and 70 packages canes. For Copenhagen:—1 box uniform, 8 cases Chinaware, and 98 rolls matting. For London:—90 bales bamboo. For Christiania:—1 case chinaware. For Buenos Ayres:—105 rolls matting, 501 packages tea, and 550 packages crackers.

**OPIUM.**

**HONGKONG,** 17th February.—Bengal.—Rates have advanced since our last, and a good amount of business has been done. Closing quotations are for New Patna \$8134 and New Benares \$8274.

## COTTON.

HONGKONG, 17th February.—A fair amount of business has been put through at ruling rates. Stocks about 4,000 bales.

Bombay	14.5 to 16.00 picul.
Karralig	to ... "
Bengal (New), Rangoon,	15.50 to 16.75 picul.
and Dacca	"
Shanghai and Japanese,	20.00 to 21.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo	20.00 to 21.00 "
Madras (Best)	to ... "
Sales; 900 bales Bengal (New), Rangoon, and Dacca.	"

## RICE.

HONGKONG, 17th February.—The continued drought has caused an advance in prices. Quotations are:

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.75 to 2.80
" Round, good quality	2.85 to 2.90
" Long	3.2 to 3.25
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 1	3.05 to 3.10
" Garden, " No. 1	3.20 to 3.25
" White	3.85 to 3.90
" Fine Cargo	4.05 to 4.10

## MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 17th January.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:

**YARN AND PIECE GOODS:**—Bombay Yarn.—50 bales No. 6 at \$70, 50 bales No. 8 at \$72, 550 bales No. 10 at \$68 to \$86.50, 450 bales No. 12 at \$69.50 to \$81.50, 300 bales No. 16 at \$81 to \$86, 650 bales No. 20 at \$78 to \$88. Japanese Yarn.—100 bales No. 10 at \$73.50 to \$77, 50 bales No. 16 at \$85. Grey Shirtings.—500 pieces 11 lbs. Red Flower at \$3.25, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Red 5 Men at \$3.35, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. B Joss No. 1 at \$2.974, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. B Joss No. 2 at \$2.91, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. 8 Dogs at \$3.02. White Shirtings.—500 pieces Gold Joss at \$3.15, 1,000 pieces Blue Dragon at \$3.10, 500 pieces Gold Dragon at \$3.36, 500 pieces No. 4.00 at \$3.15, 500 pieces Elephant and T at \$3.40, 500 pieces X at \$1.10, 500 pieces X at \$4.724. T-Cloths.—600 pieces 8 lbs. B Joss No. 2 at \$2.96, 750 pieces Mex. G. Dragon at \$2.40.

## COTTON YARN.

per bale	
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.	62.00 to 62.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24	101.00 to 108.00
" 22 to 24	106.00 to 110.00
" 28 to 32	114.00 to 120.00
" 38 to 42	125.00 to 131.00

## COTTON PIECE GOODS.

per piece	
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	1.70 to 1.80
7 lbs.	1.92 to 2.00
8.4 lbs.	2.35 to 3.10
9 to 10 lbs.	3.25 to 4.05
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.80 to 2.50
58 to 60 "	2.70 to 3.35
64 to 66 "	3.50 to 4.35
Fine	4.85 to 7.05
Book-folds.	3.75 to 5.65
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.66 to 1.35
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.52 to 1.72
7 lbs. (32 ",)	1.85 to 2.10
6 lbs. (32 ",), Mexs.	1.62 to 1.82
7 lbs. (32 ",), "	2.10 to 2.75
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	2.35 to 3.20
Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to 16 lbs.	3.65 to 6.35

## FANCY COTTONS.

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.	1.60 to 3.45
Brocades—Dyed	3.00 to —
Damasks	0.12 to 0.16
Chintzes—Assorted	0.08 to —
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.20 to —
Velveteens—18 in.	0.17 to 0.18
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.25 to 1.25

## WOOLLENS.

per yard	
Spanish Stripes—Sandrychops	0.60 to 1.50
German	0.60 to 1.50
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.00 to 2.25
per piece	
Long Ells—Scarlet	6.25 to 8.00
Assorted	6.35 to 8.10
Camlets—Assorted	12.00 to 32.00
Lastings—80 yds., 31 inches	10.00 to 20.00
Assorted	
Ogleans—Plain	7.50 to 9.00
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	8.50 to 14.00

## METALS.

Iron—Nail Rod	3.95 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar	4.00 to —
Swedish Bar	3.80 to —
Small Round Rod	3.80 to —

Loop 4 to 1½ in.	5.75 to —
Wire 1½/3	9.00 to —
Old Wire Rope	1.50 to 2.50

**SHANGHAI, 6 h F. bruary.**—(From Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report.)—  
**Piece Goods.**—Business during the interval has been of a more or less dead to y nature, many of the prominent dealers having left for their homes to spend the New Year holidays. That the market closes strong is beyond dispute; at the same time there is no excitement, the only ones who, seemingly, have any regrets over the trade done during the last two months being the sellers "to arrive" of the earlier Manchester purchases. They have never been able to anything like replace their sales, and, as time goes on, the possibility of doing so becomes more remote. In fact those sales have actually had the effect of keeping values down here, otherwise our market might have approached nearer the price ruling at home. At the same time the exceptionally brisk demand there is for Manchester wool from all parts of the world is enabling manufacturers to make their own terms, not only as regards prices but also the date of delivery, their looms being fully engaged for months ahead. Buyers here are commencing to appreciate that fact and are entering into forward contracts for both English and American makes. For the latter prices have advanced on the average fully sixpence from the lowest, and resales have been made in New York of earlier purchases at a profit of as much as eight pence per piece for other markets. The Auctions during the interval have gone irregularly, not showing that strength which might have been expected, judging by the general appearance of the market.

## JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 17th February.—The Chinese New Year holidays have materially interfered with business and the market has scarcely yet resumed its normal condition. Rates, however, have been fairly well maintained and in some cases show a rise.

**BANKS.**—Hongkong and Shanghai with a few shares offering for the settlements have ruled rather easier with small sales at 295, 294, and 293 per cent. premium cash, but shares are not obtainable on time at equivalent rates and no forward sales are reported. Nationals remain quiet at \$2.04 with sellers.

**FILE INSURANCES.**—Hongkong have improved to \$325 with small sales. It is reported that the management will, subject to audit of accounts, pay a dividend of \$244 per share. China Fires have changed hands in small lots at \$90, closing quiet with further sellers at that rate.

**MARINE INSURANCES.**—China Traders continue on offer without business, whilst Unions and Cantons remain out of the market. Straits have found buyers at \$7, and the Northern Insurances have ruled quiet and without any local business.

**SHIPPING.**—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have found buyers to a considerable extent at \$26.75, \$27, \$27½, and \$28, closing rather quiet with sellers at \$28. Indo-Chinas continue in favour and sales have been effected at \$67½ and \$68 cash, also at \$68½ and \$69 for April delivery, market closing steady to strong. China and Manilas have changed hands at quotation. Douglasses continue quiet and on offer at \$58 without business. China Mutuals are still enquired for without bringing any shares on the market.

**REFINERIES.**—China Sugars have further advanced to \$176 after sales at \$175 cash and at \$180 and \$181 for March delivery. Luxons have been negotiated for March at \$53.

**MINING.**—Punjoms continue dull and out of favour with no business to report. Charbonnages are enquired for at \$17½ without leading to business. Queen Mines have changed hands to a fair extent at \$1.00 and \$1.15 per share closing with sellers at \$1.15. Jelebus and Oliver B's have found buyers at quotations, but Oliver A continue on offer without business. Rangs continue in favour and small sales have been effected at \$64 cash. Great Easterns, which have recently boomed, to \$94 in the anticipation of a good first crushing, have suffered a fall to \$64 upon receipt of news that the crushing realized 18 ozs. The first telegram gave the result as 288 ozs, but the manager has since sent a corrected one in which he attributes the poor result to "foul play."

**DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.**—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue moving upwards without bringing out many shares, but small sales have been effected at 330 and 332 per cent. premium for March and at 325 for cash. Kowloon Wharves after further sales at \$88 and \$89 cash and at \$90 for March close quieter with sellers at \$88. The Directors subject to audit of accounts will recommend payment of a final dividend for 1898 of \$3.50 and carrying forward a considerable sum (rumour says \$45,000) to Repair and Depreciation fund. Wanchais continue unchanged and without business.

**LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.**—Hongkong Lands after further sales at \$78 close firmer with sales and small buyers at \$79. Hotels have changed hands at \$74 and \$76, closing firm at \$75. Humphreys Estates have ruled quieter with sellers at quotation and West Points steady but without sales.

**MISCELLANEOUS.**—Star Ferries have changed hands at \$12.25, Fenwicks at \$31 and \$31½, Electrics at \$11, and China Providents at \$81.

Closing quotations are as follows—

	1 M. P.	1 M. AT 9½/25
Hongsong & N'hai...	1125	298, premium
Hiua & Japan, pri.	45	nominal
Do. ordinary	44	£1, sales
Do. deferred	41	£5, f.s.
Int. Bank of China	48	20
B. Shares	41	20
Foun. Shares	41	20
Well's Asbestos E. A.	41	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	410	\$10, sales
China Prov. L. & M...	410	\$9.50, sellers
China Sugar	4100	\$176, sellers
Cotton Mills		
Ewo	110	£11, buyers
International	110	£82, buyers
Laou Kung Mow	110	£82, sales
Soychee	500	£40
Yahloong	110	£55
Hongkong	1100	\$85, sales & sellers
Dairy Farm	46	15, buyers
Enwick & Co., Geo.	225	£32, buyers
Green Island Cement	110	£27, buyers
Do. New Issue	55	26½
H. & C. Bakery	50	£33
Hongkong & C. Gas	210	£126
Hongkong Electric	410	£11
H. H. L. Tramways	1100	£130, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	550	75, buyers
Hongkong Ice	225	£11
H. & K. Wharf & C...	50	£88, sellers
Hongkong Rope	500	£175, sal. & buyers
H. & W. Dock	125	£22, £14, £11, £10
Insurances		
Canton	50	£15, sellers
China Fire	20	£80, sales
China Traders	25	£84, sellers
Hongkong Fire	50	

**SHANGHAI**, 9th February.—From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report).—On account of the proximity of the China New Year holidays business has come nearly to a standstill. Since our last report the following transactions call for attention:—Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Early in the week sales were put through at 280 per cent. premium cash and at 282 per cent. premium for the end of the month; business was transacted later at 285 per cent. premium, and the market closes at this rate. The latest Hongkong quotation is 292 per cent. premium (cash buyers), while the Sterling rate in London for the Bank's stock has risen to £66. National Bank shares changed hands at \$20. Sugars.—Perak were sold at Tls. 37. China Sugars are in demand here at market rate, and Hongkong buyers are offering \$174 cash. Docks and Wharves.—Several lots of Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares have changed hands at Tls. 137.50, while a sale for March took place at Tls. 140. Engineering and Dock shares have been in some demand and transactions are reported at Tls. 100 (par) in both ordinary and preference shares. A sale of S. C. Farnham & Co.'s shares took place at Tls. 165. Industrial.—Business has been done in Yuh Loong Cotton Mill shares at Tls. 55 and buyers are offering, while Lien Kung Mows have changed hands at Tls. 83. Cargo Boats.—A sale of Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.'s share took place at Tls. 140. Miscellaneous.—Sumatra Tobacco shares were done at Tls. 65. Debentures and Loans.—The following transactions are reported: accrued interest is to be added as usual to the rates quoted:—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf 6 per cent. at Tls. 100.50; Shanghai Linl Investment 5½ per cent. at Tls. 95; Manoipil 6 per cent. at Tls. 101 and Perak Sugar 7 per cent. at Tls. 100. BANKS.

Hongkong and Shanghai.—\$481.25  
Bank of China and Japan, defd.—\$25.50  
Do. ordinary.—Nominal.

National Bank of China, Ld.—\$20.00.

**COTTON MILLS.**  
Two Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ld.—Tls. 70.00.  
Hongkong Cotton S. W. & D. Co.—79.00.  
International Cotton Man. Co., Ld.—Tls. 82.00.  
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Co., Ld.—Tls. 88.00.  
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ld.—Tls. 400.00.  
**DOCKS, WHARVES, &c.**  
Boyd & Co., Ld., Founders.—Nominal.  
Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 185.00.  
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf Company.—\$79.  
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ld.—\$505.00.  
S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 166.00.  
Shanghai Engineering S. & D. Co.—Tls. 100.00.  
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 137.50.

**INSURANCES.**  
Canton Insurance Office, Ld.—\$150.00.  
China Fire Insurance Co., Ld.—\$89.00.  
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ld.—\$64.00.  
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ld.—\$320.00.  
North China Insurance Co., Ld.—Tls. 180.00.  
Straits Insurance Co., Ld.—\$7.00.  
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ld.—\$280.  
Yangtze Insurance Assocn., Ld.—\$120.

**LANDS.**  
Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ld.—\$78.00.  
Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ld.—\$84.  
Shanghai Land Invest Co. (fully pd.)—Tls. 86.00.

**MINING.**  
Punjom Mining Co., Ld.—\$6.00.  
Punjom Mining Co., Ld., pref. shares.—\$1.60.  
Raub Australian Gold Mining Co., Ld.—\$50.00.  
Sheridan Consolidated Co.—Tls. 2.50.

**SHIPPING.**  
China Mutual preference.—Tls. 71.00.  
Do. ordinary, £5 paid.—Tls. 25.00.  
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 140.00.  
Douglas Steamship Co., Ld.—\$54.00.  
Hongkong, Canton and Macao.—\$27.00.  
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ld.—Tls. 45.00.  
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 160.00.  
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ld.—Tls. 200.  
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ld.—T. Tls. 75.00.  
**SUGAR.**

China Sugar Refining Co., Ld.—\$170.00.  
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ld.—\$55.00.  
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ld.—Tls. 37.00.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

American Cigarette Co.—Tls. 62.50.  
Central Stores, Ld.—\$10.00.  
China Flour Mills Co.—Tls. 40.00.  
Hall & Holtz, Ld.—\$31.50.  
Llewellyn & Co. J., Limited.—\$57.50.  
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 37.50.  
Shanghai Frather Cleaning Co.—Tls. 400.00.  
Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 197.00.  
Shanghai Hors. Bazaar Co., Ld.—Tls. 60.0.  
Shanghai Ice, Cold Storage, & Refrigeration Co., Ld., Tls. 26.00.  
Shanghai Ice Company—Tls. 95.00.  
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ld.—Tls. 95.00.  
Do. New Isane.—Tls. 75.  
Shanghai Rice Mills Co.—Tls. 27.00.  
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 65.00.  
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ld.—Tls. 280.00.  
Watson Co., A. S., Limited.—\$12.50.

#### EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 17th February.

##### ON LONDON.

Telegraphic Transfer	1/11
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/00

##### ON PARIS.

Bank Bills, on demand	2.48
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.50

##### ON GERMANY.

On demand	2.60
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##### ON NEW YORK.

Bank Bills, on demand	47
Credits, 60 days' sight	48

##### ON BOMBAY.

Telegraphic Transfer	146
Bank, on demand	146

##### ON CALCUTTA.

Telegraphic Transfer	146
Bank, on demand	146

##### ON SHANGHAI.

Bank, at sight	73
Private, 30 days' sight	74

##### ON YOKOHAMA.

On demand	5 1/2 % pm.
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##### ON MANILA.

On demand	1 1/2 % pm.
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##### ON SINGAPORE.

On demand	1 1/2 % pm.
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##### SOVEREIGNS. Bank's Ruying Rate.

Gold Leaf, 100 fine, per tael	10.13
	54.00

#### TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 17th February.—Since last report the demand for tonnage in all directions has fallen off, and rates remain about as before quoted.

From Saigon to Hongkong, there is scarcely any enquiry for prompt steamers, and rates are weak at 14 cents per picul. Small carriers are wanted to load in a fortnight at 15 cents per picul; to Singapore 7 cents per picul is offered, to Amoy 24 cents per picul.

Japan coal freights.—From Moji to Hongkong, \$2.10 per ton, is offered and \$1.10 to \$3.25 to Singapore.

Sailing tonnage.—The Starfield, monthly charter previously reported has been cancelled. The British bark Chyd, 1,065 tons, load here for Callao, under charter effected at home, the cargo to consist of 1,500 tons of Siam rice.

There is one disengaged vessel in port registering 2,438 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

Stanford—British bark, 580 tons, Rajang to Hongkong, \$5,500 per month.

Vale of Doon—British bark, 669 tons, Kuchinotsu to Singapore, \$2.85 per ton.

Siegfried—German steamer, 909 tons, Manila to Marseilles or London, £2,600.

Guernsey—British steamer, 1,838 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$3.10 per ton.

Apawade—German steamer, 611 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.10 per ton.

Satow—German steamer, Iloilo to Hongkong, \$4,00 in full.

Proper—Norwegian steamer, 788 tons, Saigon to Singapore, 17 cents per picul.

Asago—German steamer, 822 tons, Saigon to Amoy, 24 cents per picul.

Ode—Norwegian steamer, 777 tons, Saigon to Hongkong (re-charter), 15 cents per picul.

Lokang—British steamer, 979 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Tries—German steamer, 1,483 tons, Saigon to Hongkong (re-charter), 15 cents per picul.

Holstein—German steamer, 1,108 tons, Saigon to Hongkong (re-charter), 15 cents per picul.

Sultan—British steamer, 1,643 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Daphne—German steamer, 1,415 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Deuterus—German steamer, 1,251 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Mongkul—British steamer, 59 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Maroc—French steamer, 1,042 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14½ cents per picul.

Nanyoku Maru—Japanese steamer, 82½ tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul (re-charter).

Kongbeng—British steamer, 862 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Taichong—German steamer, 939 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Doyo Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,294 tons, five trips, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Nanyang—German steamer, 1,060 tons, monthly, 4 months, \$5,750 per month.

Pronto—German steamer, 719 tons, monthly, 4 months, \$5,00 per month.

Strickdale—British steamer, 2,468 tons, hence to San Francisco and back, monthly, private terms.

**SHANGHAI**, 7th February (from Messrs. Whealock & Co.'s report).—Since our last issue on the 23rd ult. our homeward freight market has undergone no noticeable change, and though at that time cargo was plentiful in the south it appears to have since been pretty well taken up by large carriers; as latest advices report a scarcity of freight offering in that direction, while locality but little support is forthcoming, mainly consisting of the usual winter business in hides, skins, etc. From Japan to this we quote coal rates at \$1.35 per ton. For London via Suez.—The quantity of cargo shipped for this destination during the past fortnight amounts to a most insignificant figure, not much in excess of 1,000 tons having been collected between the three departing vessels. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 15s.; Northern Continental ports, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s.; New York via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Baltimore via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 52s. 6d.; waste silk 55s.; tea 57s. 6d.; Konigsberg via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Manchester, by Conference Lines, general cargo 52s. 6d.; waste silk 55s.; tea 57s. 6d.; Liverpool, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Hamburg, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s. Above rates are subject to a deferred rebate, as per Conference circular. Havre, by Conference Lines, tallow 36s. net, general cargo 36s. net, waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 40s. 6d. net; Genoa, by Conference Lines, tallow 36s. net, general cargo 36s. net, waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 41s. 6d. net; Marseilles, by Conference Lines, tallow 36s. net, general cargo 36s. net, waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 40s. 6d. net; 35s. per ton of 20 cwt. net for above three ports. New York, by sail, 18s. nominal. New York via Pacific, 1 gold cent per lb. tea, 6 cents per lb. silk, \$10 per ton strawbraid. New York via Suez, 27s. 6d. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric; 27s. 6d. for tea, all net. Boston, 33s. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 41s. for tea, all net. Philadelphia, 35s. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 40s. for tea, all net. Coast rates.—Moji to Shanghai \$1.35 per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$1.35 per ton coal; Newchwang to Kobe closed; Newchwang to Swatow closed; Newchwang to Canton closed; Wufu to Canton 13 cands.

#### VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Dardanus (str.), Glenesk (str.), Balaarat (str.), Hitachi Maru (str.), Glengarry (str.).

For BEIJING.—Sachsen (str.).

For MARSHALLS.—Hitachi Maru (str.), Tonkin (str.).

For HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Siberia (str.), Suevia (str.), Wittenberg (str.), Silesia (str.), Nurnberg (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—Doric (str.), China (str.), Nippon Maru (str.), Queen Margaret.

For VANCOUVER.—Empress of Japan (str.).

For VICTORIA, B.C. AND COOMA.—Tacoma (str.).

For PORTLAND, O.—Monmouthshire (str.).

For SAN DIEGO.—Shantung (str.).

For NEW YORK.—Sikh (str.), Indram (str.), Kenmore (str.).

For THURSDAY ISLAND.—Kanaga Maru (str.).

For SINGAPORE, COLOMBO, AND BOMBAY.—Kagoshima Maru (str.).

For AUSTRALIA.—Otago (str.), Australasia (str.).

**SHIPPING.****ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.****HONGKONG.****February— ARRIVALS.**

8. Sachsen, German str., from Bremerhaven.  
 9. P. C. C. Kiao, British str., from Saigon.  
 9. Chinkiang, British str., from Wuhu.  
 9. Nanyang, German str., from Taiwanfoo.  
 9. Chowfa, British str., from Bangkok.  
 9. Taiwan, British str., from Shanghai.  
 9. Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.  
 9. Wingsang, British str., from Moji.  
 9. Kaifong, British str., from Wuhu.  
 9. Sultan, British str., from Hongay.  
 9. Haimun, British str., from Swatow.  
 9. Gisela, Austrian str., from Kobe.  
 10. Kiangnan, Chinese str., from Canton.  
 10. Clara, German str., from Haiphong.  
 10. Tailee, German str., from Manila.  
 10. Laos, French str., from Shanghai.  
 10. Indrani, British str., from Amoy.  
 10. Telena, British str., from Moji.  
 10. Denicalion, British str., from Sandakan.  
 10. Cowrie, British str., from Batavia.  
 10. Lienshing, British str., from Wuhu.  
 10. Menelaus, British str., from Liverpool.  
 11. Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.  
 11. Deuterius, German str., from Saigon.  
 11. Fatumi Maru, Jap. str., from Southampton.  
 11. Loosok, British str., from Bangkok.  
 11. Nanyetsu Maru, Jap. str., from Saigon.  
 11. Peiyang, German str., from Chinkiang.  
 11. Sarnia, German str., from Hiogo.  
 11. Thrunscoc, British str., from Cardiff.  
 12. Ettrickdale, British str., from Shanghai.  
 12. Kohinur, British str., from Calcutta.  
 12. Sagrmi Maru, Japanese str., from Amoy.  
 12. Australian, British str., from Kobe.  
 12. Chansang, British str., from Saigon.  
 13. Formosa, British str., from London.  
 13. Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.  
 13. Socotra, British str., from Kobe.  
 13. Doyo Maru, Japanese str., from Saigon.  
 13. Sabine Rickmers, Brit. str., from Swatow.  
 13. Trieste, Austrian str., from Trieste.  
 13. Shantung, British str., from Java.  
 13. Hainan, German str., from Chinkiang.  
 14. Lyemmon, Ger. str., from Canton.  
 14. Ingraban, German str., from Saigon.  
 14. Kong Beng, British str., from Saigon.  
 14. Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.  
 14. Elba, Italian cruiser, from Singapore.  
 14. Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.  
 14. Moyune, British str., from Liverpool.  
 14. Hsi Ping, Chinese str., from Bangkok.  
 14. Propontis, British str., from Saigon.  
 14. Caledonien, French str., from Marseilles.  
 14. Miike Maru, Japanese str., from Cambay.  
 14. Bygdo, Norwegian str., from Saigon.  
 14. Germania, German str., from Saigon.  
 14. Dagmar, Norwegian str., from Manila.  
 15. Kwangse, British str., from Shanghai.  
 15. Malaya, British str., from London.  
 15. Robilla, British str., from Yokohama.  
 15. Siam, British str., from Bangkok.  
 15. Taichiu, British str., from Tamsui.  
 15. Patroclus, British str., from Moji.  
 15. Tacus, British str., from Rotterdam.  
 15. Bellerophon, British str., from Liverpool.  
 15. Tosa Maru, Japanese str., from Yokohama.  
 15. Yedo Maru, Japanese str., from Saigon.  
 15. Fukui Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.  
 16. Arcona, German cruiser, from Shanghai.  
 16. Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.  
 16. Kalgan, British str., from Swatow.  
 16. Obi, British str., from Singapore.  
 16. Doric, British str., from San Francisco.  
 16. Tategami Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.  
 16. Firebrand, British g.-bt., from Canton.  
 17. Ballarat, British str., from Shanghai.  
 17. Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.  
 17. Tamarind, Norwegian str., from Moji.  
 17. Baltimore, American or., from Manila.  
 17. Montero, Amr. monitor, from Manila.  
 17. Irene, German cruiser, from Manila.  
 17. Airlie, British str., from Sydney.  
 17. Parramatta, British str., from Bombay.  
 17. Liv, Norwegian str., from Singapore.

**February— DEPARTURES.**

10. Kaifong, British str., for Canton.  
 10. Hohenzollern, German str., for Yokohama.  
 10. Sachsen, German str., for Shanghai.  
 10. Knivsberg, German str., for Manila.  
 10. Lienshing, British str., for Canton.  
 11. Laos, French str., for Europe.  
 11. Suisang, British str., for Calcutta.

11. Mongkut, British str., for Saigon.  
 11. S. D. Carleton, Amr. ship, for Kahului.  
 11. Charterhouse, Brit. str., for Saigon.  
 13. Gisela, Austrian str., for Bombay.  
 13. Chittagong, British str., for Saigon.  
 13. Wingsang, British str., for Canton.  
 14. Gefion, German cruiser, for Amoy.  
 14. Sarvia, German str., for Hamburg.  
 14. Triumph, German str., for Pakhoi.  
 14. Job, Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.  
 14. Haitan, British str., for Swatow.  
 14. Daphne, German str., for Saigon.  
 14. Tailee, German str., for Manila.  
 14. Hoihao, French str., for Pakhoi.  
 14. Taiwan, British str., for Swatow.  
 14. Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.  
 14. Victoria, British str., for Tacoma.  
 14. Hainan, German str., for Canton.  
 14. Futami Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.  
 15. Telena, British str., for Singapore.  
 15. Michael Jebsen, German str., for Hoihao.  
 15. Hougkong, French str., for Hoihao.  
 15. Haimun, British str., for Swatow.  
 15. Progress, German str., for Touren.  
 15. Formosa, British str., for Shanghai.  
 15. Trieste, Austrian str., for Yokohama.  
 15. Stanfield, British bark, for Rajang.  
 15. Empress of India, British str., for Vancouver.  
 15. Caledonien, French str., for Shanghai.  
 15. Moyune, British str., for Shanghai.  
 15. Lyee moon, Ger. str., for Shanghai.  
 15. Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.  
 15. Soootra, British str., for London.  
 15. Deutschland, German cr., for Swatow.  
 16. Menelaus, British str., for Japan.  
 16. Nanyang, German str., for Swatow.  
 16. Nanyetsu Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.  
 16. Sultan, British str., for Saigon.  
 16. Deuterius, German str., for Saigon.  
 16. Kwangse, British str., for Canton.  
 16. Prosper, Norw. str., for Saigon.  
 16. Cowrie, British str., for Shanghai.  
 16. Patroclus, British str., for London.  
 16. Choyang, British str., for Swatow.  
 16. Tosa Mara, Jap. str., for London.  
 17. Esmeralda, British str., for Mahila.  
 17. China, Amr. str., for San Francisco.  
 17. Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.  
 17. Miike Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.  
 17. Pronto, German str., for Amoy.  
 17. Kung Heng, British str., for Saigon.  
 17. Keongwai, British str., for Bangkok.

**PASSENGERS LIST.  
ARRIVED.**

Per Laos, for Hongkong, from Shanghai, Messrs. V. M. Britte, Jean Vallière, J. M. D'Almeida, Mrs. Barnes, Mrs. Alex. Hamilton, Messrs. Jos. Hermanns, W. S. Pirie, F. A. Cammiu, J. J. V. dos Remedios, J. R. Xavier, H. W. Pereira, E. T. Gibson, Pre. Emmanuel Ferreira, Cooper, R. F. Gray, J. Grimes, Mrs. A. Ross, Mr. Alex. P. Waugh, Miss Tai Che, Mr. Cavallo; from Japan, Mr. Dannenberg, Mr. and Mrs. Beinsen, Messrs. Lan Cho Palo, Fortich, Edelstein, Mrs. Rachel, Mrs. Ohtsuk. Mrs. Yavoa and Moraoha: for Saigon, from Shanghai, Mr. Cugnini; from Japan, Mr. Pierrot: for Singapore, from Shanghai, Mr. F. Hardy; from Japan, Mr. Orner: for Port Said, from Shanghai, Mr. A. C. Nicholls and Mr. and Mrs. Miroslavsky; from Japan, Mr. Weiss: for Marseilles, from Shanghai, Consul General and Mrs. de Uriarte, Mr. E. H. Casey, P. Luneschloss, Saint Cyr Perrot, Mr. and Mrs. Gnypers, Messrs. d'Orival, de Lapeyrière, Nava, Otto Groninger, Pater-  
son and Gray; from Japan, Mr. A. Azevedo, Mr. Takagi, Mr. Yamamoto, Miss du Bouquet, Mrs. Revon, Admiral Réounoff, Messrs. Kona.

Per Kohinur, from Calcutta, &c., Capt. Ray, Capt. Nathan, Messrs. A. E. Nicol and J. Harper, and Rev. Eyre Chatterton.

Per Australian, from Kobe, Miss Worsp, Mrs. Harvey and Mr. Castner.

Per Formosa, for Hongkong, from London, Messrs. Lee, Roome, McGill, and Peain; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Putnam and Mrs. Munyar; for Yokohama, from London, Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood; for Kobe, from London, Mr. Spence.

Per Caledonien, for Hongkong from Marseilles, Mr. Albinana, Mr. and Mrs. P. de Agostini; from Colombo, Rev. S. Adoo; from Singapore, Messrs. R. Gadeling, L. A. Stout, Cushing, H. Keton, Joseph Katz, Capt. Chomard de Lancé, and Mr. Eug. Keign, from Saigon,

Messrs. Ch. Lemasse and O. H. L. Raphael. For Shanghai from Marseilles, Messrs. John Alfred Haye, Deichen, and Bouchard; from Singapore, Mr. Caneva. For Nagasaki from Singapore, Messrs. S. Matsuda and Hayashi; from Saigon, Mr. Oshige Eukuyama. For Kobe from Saigon, Mr. T. N. Richter. For Yokohama from Marseilles, Messrs. Dagnonet and F. Bonnet.

Per Rohilla, from Yokohama, Mr. F. W. Franks, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Wilson, Mrs. J. Baptista and 2 children, Mr. J. A. Nicolle, Misses Nicolle (2), Messrs. C. Tulloch, Harden, Randall, Veal, Night, McCreary, Geo. Graham, Thos. Mausell, Francis Carroll, and Wm. Good.

Per Doric, from San Francisco, &c., Rev. B. C. Henry, D.D., Dr. E. V. Armstrong, U.S.N., Messrs. C. Crosby, H. E. Green, Jas. Creeman, A. B. Bowey, A. V. Johnson, A. N. Wilson, and E. H. Dunu, U.S.N., Capt. C. Archer, M.S.C., Mr. L. C. Barn, Lieut. C. H. Lewis, U.S.V., Messrs. A. Carlatt, W. Cox, C. William, R. Boy, F. Gove, Booth, Mrs. C. A. Clarke, Mr. K. Webel, Dr. Kattetuhorn, Mr. N. E. Moller, Miss B. Novia, Mr. E. J. Hughes, Lieut. W. A. Gill, U.S.N., Mrs. O. J. Richards, Mr. W. S. Webb, Mrs. A. S. Dowey, Messrs. O. S. Bader, C. Junghenn, V. F. Deacon, A. Lawles, Mrs. Langschwadt, Masters Langschwadt (2), Messrs. C. S. Barff and S. Reynell, Mrs. W. Cox and infant, Mr. C. J. Ashley, Mrs. Booth, Mrs. D. W. Crawford, Messrs. A. N. Lowenstein and A. Doctor.

**DEPARTED.**

Per Laos, from Hongkong from Saigon, Mr. L. Poltorazky, Mr. Sambuc, Revs. Gratuse, Hay, and Fowinic, Sisters Vetaline and Victoire; for Singapore, Dr. Kaesterer, Mrs. H. Sampson, Messrs. A. S. Lee, Fau Wak Kiat, M. Paliakoff, A. R. Abbas, Crocker, Mrs. Luisa, Mrs. Kuperman, Mr. and Mrs. Malies; for Batavia, Mr. L. W. Busket; for Samarang, Mrs. A. B. Snow and 2 children; for Colombo, Mr. H. Bubb, Mr. and Mrs. R. de la Poer; for Marseilles, Mrs. J. Vautier, Messrs. H. W. Hine, S. A. K. Stratham, W. K. Patterson, P. Duncan, W. Pickford, B. Bertelsen, G. Goosmann, J. McCarthy, G. Caslin, and Mrs. Gross.

Per Hohenzollern, for Yokohama from Southampton, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Budd and children; from Naples, Messrs. A. Tanakadate, F. Matsubara, F. Maketa; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. E. Stanley Gibbons, Mr. F. H. Davidson; from Singapore, Mr. H. Ziegler; from Genoa, Mr. L. Block, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Keyser; from Hongkong, Mr. C. H. Best. For Nagasaki from Genoa, Mr. A. Feaschi; from Singapore, Mrs. Okitei and child.

Per Sachsen, for Shanghai from Bremen, Mr. Joh. Wiede; from Southampton, Mr. L. Hughes; from Genoa, Messrs. E. Suburger, F. Brun, J. Brun, C. Lauwesch, A. von Kuaseraw, Mrs. Deyendecker, Mr. Joh. Thayen, Referendar Petersen, Capt. Z. Jäschke, Genl. Admiralitäts Rath Rechtern, Messrs. von Lilienkron, Hy Chai, P. Schmidt, Thos. W. Pegatt, and Chan; from Colombo, Messrs. H. Geldemeister, J. M. Berg, and G. T. Skottowe; from Bremen, Messrs. G. Marshall and E. Picker; from Southampton, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson and children, Messrs. J. Robinson and Cecil Smith, Mrs. J. Andrews, and Mr. C. Blades, from Singapore, Mr. John Short; from Hongkong, Messrs. C. Houghton, E. P. Botelho, J. R. Walker, T. Anderson, C. Sattler, and Capt. Barnes.

Per Formosa, from Hongkong for Shanghai, Asst. Paymaster E. H. Redman, Messrs. Von Mol and Roome; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Saxton. From London for Kobe, Mr. P. L. Spence. From Singapore for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood.

Per Empress of India, for Shanghai, Mrs. Schomburg and child, Capt. Nathan, Messrs. A. E. Reynell and W. E. Roberts, and Dr. G. E. Morrison; for Nagasaki, Miss Hamper, and Capt. W. Wulff; for Yokohama, Mr. J. T. Richardson; for New York, Mr. L. Bloch; for Liverpool, Mr. G. F. Phillips; for London, Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Benjamin and child, Mrs. Van Nierop, Capt. Fraser, Messrs. S. D. Marjoribanks, N. Smith, A. F. Nicol, J. Harper, C. R. Rhodes, T. F. Kinnell, and J. Reid. From Yokohama for London, Mr. Jas. Martin.

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